■ Across /A17

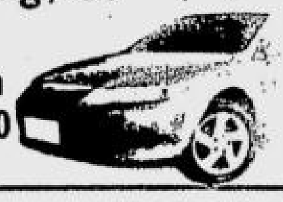
Woman lawyer shot dead near Burnham Park

■ Lifestyle / D1

Sake Son's pa turned Pinoy to Japanese buffet

■ Motoring / C3

Mazda6 scores an almost 10



■ Sports / A25

Tour Pilipinas starts today in Sorsogon

Tanong ng Bayan / A24

Nakikinabang nga ba ang NPA sa party list?

NGAYONG ALAS-10 NG GABI SA ABC

CANDIDATE-ON-LEAVE Roco at the Naia shortly before boarding his flight for Houston, Texas.

ROGER MARGALLO

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

sdday, April 15, 2004 ★★ 56 pages / 5 sections / vol. 19 / no. 127 P18

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Roco followers wooed by Gloria, Ping camps

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Norman Bordadora

CEBU CITY—Representatives of President Macapagal-Arroyo and of Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson are courting the support of Promdi, one of the three parties comprising Raul Roco's Alyansa ng Pag-Asa.

ROCO/ A21

'Tell it to the wind, I am not quitting'

Roco machinery still running in high gear

By Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgonio

ALTHOUGH he left a mere 10 hours after announcing his decision to seek medical treatment in the United States, Raul Roco was able to put his house in order.

"The women are meeting tomorrow," the presidential candidate told reporters late Tuesday night at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. "The team today plotted our refinements to the movement. My sons will accompany all the sorties."

Roco said the whole machinery of the Alyansa ng Pag-Asa and his supporters were "fighting, supportive of the whole ticket, and energized."

He reiterated that he would not quit the presidential race: "Absolutely. Tell it to the people. Tell it to the wind."

"There is nothing that you will miss, except that I will not be there," he said. "But remember that during national campaigns, [a candidate is] seen practically only once in most provinces. In the campaigns, [one] should not have to be physically present always. [That's] virtual reality."

Roco, his wife Sonia and two other companions flew to Guam en route to Houston, Texas, on Continental Airways flight 934 at 11:25 p.m. Tuesday. Not one of his doctors was in his party.

But before leaving, the upbeat candidate managed to harp on his platform of hope: "Hope is in the hearts and in the minds of people; that will never die. When

TELL IT/ A21

EDWIN BACASMAS

THE GANG'S all here to signal an "unabashed" alliance between Fernando Poe Jr. and the Marcoses sealed at the Laoag provincial capitol during a grand campaign rally of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino. From left, Rep. Imee Marcos, Ilocos Norte Gov. Bongbong Marcos, FPJ, his running mate Sen. Loren Legarda and former first lady Imelda Marcos.

Blast from the past: FPJ, Marcoses seal alliance

By Carlito Pablo

LAOAG CITY—Fireworks lit the evening sky on Tuesday here in the heartland of Ilocandia to herald the unabashed political alliance between opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. and the Marcoses.

Like a blast from the past, the personalities who occupied the stage at the grand rally of the opposition Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino were a reminder of two administrations that were booted out by the people power of 1986 and 2001.

On stage were Imelda, widow of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, in resplendent red with children Rep. Imee Marcos and Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

Also on stage were former Marcos ministers Ernesto Maceda, Juan Ponce Enrile and Salvador Escudero, and former police general Alfredo Lim—all seeking Senate seats under the Poe-led KNP banner.

At a pit stop here, Enrile, the defense minister who staged a failed coup against Marcos in February 1986 that led to the people power revolt, apologized to the Ilocano for his role in the ouster of Marcos. "*Agbabawi ak* (I regret)," he reportedly told a crowd.

Likewise present was Jinggoy Estrada, son of deposed President Joseph Estrada and a wedding godson of Poe.

BLAST/ A21

2 soldiers rescued from NPA abductors

By Marlon Ramos, Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Madonna Virola
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE TWO soldiers broke into smiles at the sight of their rescuers.

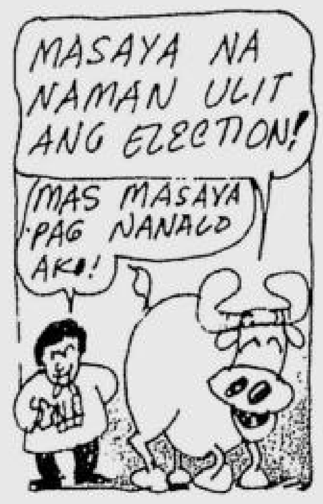
Government troops rescued them yesterday and killed a member of the New People's Army (NPA) after a 12-hour fire fight with communist rebels in Bongabong town in Oriental Mindoro.

No casualty was reported on the government side.

At a press briefing in Naujan town, military officials led by Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, commander of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division, presented rescued Army privates Michael Rapadas and Joel Javier.

Chief Supt. Alejandro Lapinid said an NPA rebel whom he identified as "Ka Walter" was killed in the fire fight. Lapinid said the slain rebel belonged to a platoon of the NPA's Lucio de Guzman Command.

2 SOLDIERS/ A8



MASAYA NA NAMAN ULIT ANG ELECTION!
MAS MASAYA PAG NANALO AKO!

Good-hair day for Gil, for now

By Delmar S. Cariño, Philip C. Tubeza, Blanche S. Rivera and Martin P. Marfil

BAGUIO CITY—He's back on the official list of candidates—and that gave presidential aspirant Eddie Gil some room for hope.

At least in the next five days when the comment from the Commission on Elections on Gil's petition seeking a reversal of the poll body's decision declaring

GOOD-HAIR/ A21

Gloria hits 'mindless' FPJ; big business groups cheer

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

ESCALATING her campaign offensive 27 days before election, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday launched a blistering attack on Fernando Poe Jr., warning the country cannot risk being ruled by a man without a mind of his own.

Leaders of the business elite cheered.

Makati Business Club chair Ricardo Romulo practically endorsed the President.

"With the latest developments, there are only two candidates," Romulo said in welcome remarks, referring to Roco's decision to seek US treatment for his back pains.

"One candidate wants to lead the country because his heart is in the right place and it seems all he has to offer," Romulo said.

"The other candidate stakes her claim on the basis of her track record, which speaks for itself and needs no embellishment from me."

Ms Macapagal spoke at the last Presidential Candidates Series of seven big business groups at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City, hours after another rival, former Sen. Raul Roco, flew to the United States for medical treatment.

Opinion surveys show Ms Macapagal and Poe locked in a close race and Roco's decision to leave his campaign behind has bolstered the President's chances, analysts say.

The President and the business leaders agreed the May 10 election contest had narrowed down to a choice between her and the

GLORIA/ A22

GMA: Voice of experience, the poise and bearer of great expectations.

GMA mulls pullout of RP troops in Iraq

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Jerome Aning

SHE PRIDES herself on being called one of America's staunchest allies in its war on terror.

Now, for the first time, President Macapagal-Arroyo appears open to the idea of withdrawing Filipino troops from Iraq if violence there escalates.

"The decision on whether or not to withdraw our peacekeeping forces will depend on the security situation in Iraq in the days to come," Ms Macapagal said in a statement yesterday.

She stressed she would not be rushed into any decision.

A withdrawal of the 53 Filipino soldiers and police deployed in south-central Iraq under the Polish command would be a symbolic setback for the administration of US President George W. Bush.

Washington has been trying to shore up support from its allies for its military occupation of Iraq while battling to contain armed insurgents on two fronts.

Besides the peacekeepers, about 3,000 other Filipinos live or work in Iraq, Reuters said.

Concern about the safety of the Filipino peacekeepers has been heightened by a wave of kidnappings of foreigners by armed groups in Iraq. Latest foreign media reports said about 40 citizens from a dozen countries are still held hostage by Iraqi gunmen in various parts of that country.

One of those recently kidnapped by Iraqi armed men was a Filipino civilian driver for military supply trucks, but he has been released unharmed. He was not part

GMA/ A9

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA PDI RESEARCH/04/15/04

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Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
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Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Second FRONTPAGE

It doesn't matter who wins—BSP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

IT DOES not really matter which of the two leading presidential contenders wins in May but that there should be credible and peaceful elections that will produce a winner with a clear mandate, according to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

"What is really more important especially to overseas investors is how we conduct our elections and if the President will be able to carry out a program," Buenaventura told dzMM radio yesterday.

The Central Bank governor said what concerns investors more was not whether President Macapagal-Arroyo or actor Fernando Poe Jr. prevails but whether the new President will be able to carry out an economic reform program.

"We all know their programs, and they are not too different from each other. Hopefully, we will have a President with a six-year mandate with a stronger will to implement the badly needed reforms," Buenaventura said.

Ms Macapagal's lack of a clear mandate has been blamed for her inability to implement key structural reforms to boost revenue collection, trim public expenditures and curb corruption over the past three years.

Ms Macapagal assumed the presidency after then President Joseph Estrada was ousted for corruption by the second Edsa People Power revolution midway through his six-year term.

The President herself acknowledged the importance of having a clear mandate during a forum with business groups yesterday.

"I hope and intend that in my next administration I will have a new mandate rather than a mandate from a very unusual happening like Edsa II to bring about a government of national unity," she said.

She deplored the thinking being promoted by certain business groups and individuals that the hotly contested elections would lead to civil disturbance especially if the victor wins by only a slim margin.

Race is down to FPJ vs GMA, says Angara

By Christine O. Avendaño, Carlito Pablo and Cynthia D. Balana

THE DEPARTURE of Alyansa ng Pag-Asa standard-bearer Raul Roco for the US to seek medical treatment has now turned the presidential race into a one-on-one contest between President Macapagal Arroyo and Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino presidential bet Fernando Poe Jr., Sen. Edgardo Angara said yesterday.

Poe and Ms Macapagal are running neck-and-neck in the surveys, with Roco coming in third, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, fourth, and Bro. Eddie Villianueva, fifth.

With the elections just three weeks away, Angara boldly predicted that Poe will win by 10 percent over the President.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, however, disagrees, claiming that Ms Macapagal will win the presidency by five to 10 percent over Poe.

At a news conference, Drilon said the President's survey ratings have "slowly and steadily improved," noting that she has overtaken Poe's lead by 1.6 percent in the latest Pulse Asia survey.

But Angara dismissed Drilon's statements, contending that Poe will win the presidential race.

Saying that Roco's departure from his campaign "has put the election issue even more clear and more straightforward and that it's now a contest between GMA and FPJ," Angara said that Poe would win by 10 percent over the President "and we know where we will get that 10 percent."

He said according to pollsters of the opposition, Poe has not yet reached his ceiling of 40 percent of voters likely to pick him as their candidate.

The KNP pollsters also said the possibility of Poe gaining more voters was bigger than the President, according to Angara.

"Out of the 30 to 31 percent she has got now, 30 percent of that is soft vote, meaning that for one good reason those 30 percent would shift their votes," he said.

But Drilon said that based on the administration's assessment, Ms Macapagal's lead "would increase over the next few weeks and by election time, there should be a significant lead by the President over her closest rival."

According to Drilon, the President has overtaken Poe in the latest survey because of the strong machinery of the administration coalition or K-4.

Angara, however, dismissed as government propaganda Drilon's statement that President Macapagal would win because the opposition has no political machinery.

He said that the President was strong in only four regions—Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Caraga Region and the Cordillera Region. On the other hand, Poe was leading in the rest of the country's 15 regions, he said.

"Machinery is very important but I think the essential issue of this campaign is trust. Do you trust this man or woman to be your next president? Can you trust him with your life, your kids? What's the use of experience and education if people don't trust you?" he said.

Angara said Roco has "practically quit the race" by leaving for the US. "You can't get out of the campaign three weeks into the election without hurting your chances," he said.

Angara disclosed that some people in the KNP are now wooing Roco's supporters to join the opposition.

He cited KNP spokesperson Mike Romero who is now talking to Roco's ally, former congressman Edcel Lagman.

Poe's camp also had this to say to Malacañang following Roco's departure: Don't uncork the champagne bottle just yet.

Sen. Vicente "Tito" Sotto III disputed claims that the President would benefit from Roco's absence.

"Those who are voting for Senator Roco are either Roco diehards or anti-GMA. So it doesn't necessarily follow that they will vote for GMA if Senator Roco is inactive," Sotto said.

Sotto expressed confidence that Poe will still emerge victorious in the May 10 elections even if Ms Macapagal gets a good share of Roco voters.

Meanwhile, two Nationalist People's Coalition congressmen yesterday insisted that the President would win the election with or without Roco.

"Former Senator Roco's departure will not change the fact that the President is slowly but surely pulling away en route to clinching victory in next month's elections," Rep. Ace Durano of Cebu said.

Rep. Douglas Cagas of Davao del Sur said that while pollsters have claimed that Roco's de facto withdrawal will benefit the President, he said the President will win without Roco.

"The President has prepared for the race factoring in all contingencies even if the opposition unites against her," Cagas said.

But opposition Rep. Imee Marcos of Ilocos Norte chided the administration for painting a Macapagal victory scenario this early, saying this was part of the so-called "Oplan Checkmate" and a prelude to a military junta.

Marcos said the people will not accept a presidency founded on a rigged vote count and that the resulting mass protests would be an open invitation for the military to step in and seize control of the government.

She stressed that the operational map of Oplan Checkmate will ensure a Macapagal "surprise victory" via a slim margin over Poe.

"The scheme may sound good on paper but the people know the truth and they would not allow any deviation from it," Marcos said.

"Cheating in the canvassing of votes would be met with massive mobilizations that will paralyze the government. In the resulting chaos, adventurers in the military would be tempted to take over government reins under the guise of peacekeeping," she added.

FPJ quitting? It's psywar, say backers

By Carlito Pablo

LAOAG, Ilocos Norte—Stalwarts of Fernando Poe Jr.'s Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino had their hands full yesterday dousing wild talk that the popular actor would soon withdraw from the presidential race.

This was just a day after independent opposition presidential candidate Raul Roco announced that he was leaving the campaign trail to seek medical treatment in the United States for his back problem.

But the rumor had preceded Roco's departure Tuesday evening. The buzz since Monday was that Poe, during his meeting the day before with breakaway opposition presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo Lacson, agreed to withdraw "at an appropriate time."

Poe's spokesperson, Rep. Francis Escudero (NPC, Sorsogon) sounded shocked in a phone interview. "What? We're the ones who are going to withdraw? We will carry on (and bring) the campaign to its logical conclusion," he told the INQUIRER.

Escudero was positive that "rival camps" were behind the report, but he ruled out Lacson, saying, "It is being fanned by the administration."

Sen. Edgardo Angara said reports of Poe's withdrawal was nothing but psywar by the opposition candidate's rivals.

KNP senatorial candidate Ernesto Herrera assailed the "vicious psychological warfare," saying the very idea of a Poe withdrawal was "foolish, ridiculous and absurd."

Ping: This will make GMA faint

By Norman Bordadora

VICTORIAS CITY, Negros Occidental—"She might faint."

Presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson yesterday said that the unification of the opposition would unleash a force so powerful, not even the administration's vaunted machinery could stop it.

"It's like a dam that would burst. The water would be so uncontrollable, that the administration candidate would not know what hit her," Lacson told reporters between campaign sorties in this province. "It would be a fight all the way to the Palace," he said of his quest.

In a television interview in Bacolod City on Tuesday night, Lacson said the possibility of his being the standard bearer once his and actor Fernando Poe Jr.'s camps presented a united front came up during his campaign team's assessment and planning meeting before the Holy Week break.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo was bound to worry more with him as main rival instead of Poe because, "she hates me more."

'Threats'

Lacson told reporters here yesterday morning that his camp was anticipating "threats" to his campaign, specifically the possible revival of black propaganda against him by the administration.

He blames Ms Macapagal for the allegations linking him to drugs and kidnapping for ransom, accusing her of repeatedly using the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case to vilify him. The case against police officers involved in the alleged summary execution of suspected members of the Kuratong bank robbery gang had been dismissed six times since the 1990s.

Lacson said the threats could also include physical harm. But since his security team was efficiently taking care of the concern, he told reporters in Bacolod City, there was no turning back: "When I start something, I finish it."

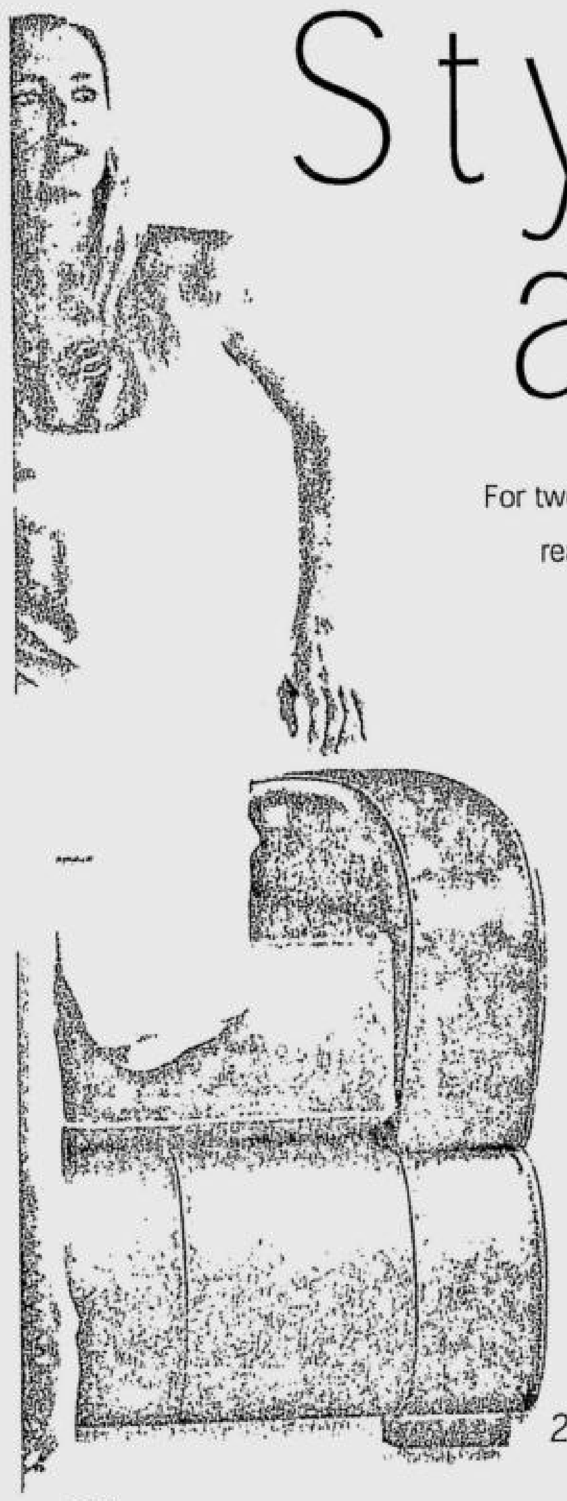
'Very strong'

He was not alluding to rival Raul Roco's sudden departure for the United States. "He pulled out because he needs medical attention," Lacson said. "*Wala akong sakit* (I am not sick). I am very strong."

Asked if he thought Roco was quitting the race in favor of Ms Macapagal, Lacson replied: "Let's give him the benefit of the doubt. All I can say is, I wish him well and (hope) he has a speedy recovery."

Meanwhile, he urged his supporters not to believe election surveys. "The surveys of SWS (Social Weather Stations) and Pulse Asia are being manipulated by Malacanang," he said, referring to the latest Pulse Asia results that ranked him fourth among the presidential aspirants, with only 10 percentage points.

"(That) means I'm good for only three million votes. If I get only three million votes, then I will even resign as a senator. I will not finish my term, which ends 2007." *With a report from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*



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Water utilities told to pay own taxes; rate cut seen

By Christine O. Gaylican and Abigail L. Ho

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System has told water service concessionaires that tax payments will no longer be allowed to be factored into the setting of water rates, a development that could mean a reduction of or rollback in the price of water services.

MWSS chief regulator Eduardo Santos said the Manila Water Co. and Maynilad Water Services had been formally notified that the state regulator may likely adopt a recent Supreme Court ruling disallowing the use of corporate income tax payments as one of the bases for determining water rates.

This could lead to the MWSS granting an extraordinary price adjustment (EPA), or a reduction in rates, to benefit consumers.

If there is enough ground to grant such a rate adjustment, the cutback will likely be an average P1 per cubic meter. This means that a household consuming 30 cubic meters a month will be paying some P100 to P150 less beginning January 2005.

The MWSS's regulatory office based its decision on a provision in the concession agreement with Manila Water and Maynilad that if there is a change in the law or regulation concerning utility firms, the changed rule or new law can be adopted if it directly affects the cash flow of the concessionaire.

It was the same SC ruling that resulted in the Manila Electric Co., the electric utility, being ordered to refund its customers billions of pesos in overcharges last year.

Santos said in a phone interview that the MWSS will still have to discuss with the water concessionaires how the ruling would be applied to their rates.

Maynilad regulatory affairs department head Philip Cases said in a text message that it was "still premature to comment on the issue" as discussions still have to begin.

Manila Water president Antonino T. Aquino said that applying the SC ruling would mean a big change in the rules that could affect their services to customers.

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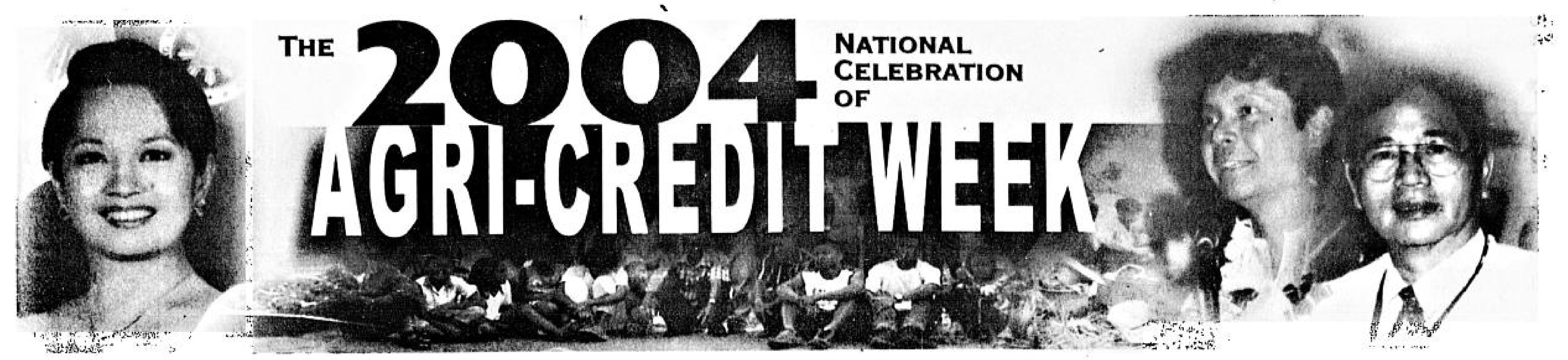

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26 Years of the QUEDANCOR Financing System

MESSAGES

My warmest greetings to the management and staff of the **Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation (QUEDANCOR)** as you spearhead the celebration of *National Agri-Credit Week*.

This celebration is timely and significant as we have posted remarkable gains in agriculture in 2003. Despite the effects of El Niño in the first semester and the onslaught of super typhoons in the third quarter, agricultural production grew by 3.77% and our farmers' income rose by 2.17%. Palay and corn output also increased as a result of the Department of Agriculture's propagation of hybrid and certified seeds and QUEDANCOR's timely delivery of credit.

These accomplishments we hope to surpass this year as we continue helping farmers in the form of fertilizer subsidy and more credit assistance programs from QUEDANCOR.

Let us uphold the importance of credit and instill credit discipline among workers in the agricultural sector. Through these, we can achieve greater productivity and income for our farmers, fisherfolk and small entrepreneurs.

Mabuhay!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

It is my utmost pleasure to greet the management and staff of **Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation (QUEDANCOR)** on this year's observance of ***National Agri-Credit Week***.

Committed to its mission of promoting sustainable development in the countryside through the timely delivery of affordable credit, QUEDANCOR has thus been instrumental in helping the Department of Agriculture implement government's various agriculture, fishery and related livelihood programs. Last year alone, it released almost P3-billion worth of loans, benefiting more than half a million farmers, fisherfolk and small entrepreneurs.

Furthermore, QUEDANCOR has rightfully earned the trust and confidence of major commercial and government banking institutions, which have been providing additional financial resources to boost its corporate funds.

More importantly, through its Self Reliant Team (SRT) model, the agency is increasingly creating a new breed of organized groups of small farmers, fishers and ruralfolk who are steeped in credit discipline, and successfully transformed into viable and progressive entrepreneurs.

We at the DA, recognizing the vital role of QUEDANCOR as the government's leading rural credit and guarantee company, therefore look forward to realizing our vision of a modernized, sustainable and globally competitive Philippine agriculture and fishery sector. Congratulations and more power!

Mabuhay ang QUEDANCOR!

LUIS P. LORENZO JR.
Secretary, Department of Agriculture
Chairman, QUEDANCOR Governing Board

I extend my heartfelt greetings to the Management and Staff of the Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation in the celebration of this year's National Agri-Credit Week.

Though economies of most Southeast Asian countries have been hit by crises last year, the Philippines has been able to recover mainly because of the agriculture sector's gains. Production has posted increases in rice, corn and other commodities. This is mainly due to the various livelihood programs implemented by the government, most of which were greatly assisted by QUEDANCOR.

Since its establishment 26 years ago, QUEDANCOR has been steadfast in its commitment to provide affordable and accessible credit to farmers, fisherfolk and small entrepreneurs, especially those living in rural areas. Its unique credit-lending scheme has brought significant results, playing a crucial role in achieving success among its beneficiaries.

More so, the Self-Reliant Team model, a brainchild of QUEDANCOR President and CEO Nelson C. Buenaflor, has become a very effective credit scheme in implementing community and countryside based livelihood programs. Through this, production in the agriculture sector is expected to increase several notches higher.

Thus, we at the Department of Finance acknowledge QUEDANCOR as a key figure in the promotion of sustainable development in the countryside. We hope that QUEDANCOR's resolve to fulfill its mandate will create more opportunities for the Filipino farmers, fisherfolk and small entrepreneurs.

Mabuhay kayong lahat at Maraming Salamat!

Juanita D. A
JUANITA D. AMATONG
Secretary, Department of Finance

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas joins the Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation **(QUEDANCOR)** in the observance of this year's *National Agri-Credit Week*.

Agricultural financing is the catalyst for countryside development. It is through capital that farmers, fishermen and small entrepreneurs are able to sustain and expand their agricultural projects.

Thus, the QUEDANCOR -- together with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and members of the banking industry -- has implemented measures to make credit accessible and affordable to members of the agricultural sector.

I congratulate the men and women of QUEDANCOR who, with their Self-Reliant Team Model, have produced responsible users of credit. In turn, banks' confidence in granting loans to the agriculture sector helps spur economic growth.

The Bangko Sentral and the banking industry look forward to working hand-in-hand with QUEDANCOR as we support the nation's entrepreneurial poor and bring more progress to the countryside.

RAFAEL B. BUENAVENTURA
Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

On this week 11 years ago, then President Fidel V. Ramos issued Proclamation No. 152, celebrating April 13 to 20 of every year as National Agri-Credit Week.

Indeed, this was a step towards the eventual growth of the Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation tasked with ensuring that investments and credit resources flow into the countryside, and that credit be made affordable and accessible to the nation's farmers, fisherfolk and entrepreneurs.

This year's Agri-Credit Week celebration puts emphasis on the importance of being credit worthy and having credit discipline. The campaign revolves on how integrity is enhanced and honor is earned when we fulfill our obligations.

In its resolve to promote credit availability and credit responsibility, QUEDANCOR is joined by key government agencies as well as major players in the private sector particularly the banking industry. Such partnerships, commitments and cooperation bode well for the future of Philippine agriculture.

Still, we cannot rest on our laurels as we continue to pursue economic development. I exhort everyone not to lose focus and be determined to pursue genuine public service, introduce beneficial changes and strive to be actively involved.

Sa inyo pong lahat, ako'y lubos na nagpapasalamat!

NELSON C. BUENAFLOR
President and Chief Executive Officer

The Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation (QUEDANCOR) spearheads this year's celebration of the Agri-Credit Week from April 13 to 20 pursuant to Proclamation No. 152 signed by then Pres. Fidel V. Ramos on March 19, 1993.

Said proclamation aims to bring national attention to the provision of adequate credit to sustain the productive endeavors of rural Filipinos. It likewise emphasizes the critical role of QUEDANCOR in working for the increased access to credit of farmers, fishermen, agricultural workers and other rural folks.

This year's Agri-Credit Week celebration carries the theme: "Isang karangalan ang magbayad ng utang sa takdang panahon", fittingly chosen by QUEDANCOR to give focus on the importance of instilling credit discipline, credit worthiness and credit responsibility among the nation's farmers, fisherfolk and small entrepreneurs.

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QUEDANCOR President & CEO Nelson C. Buenaflor leads in the awarding of the Agri-Credit Achievement Medallion to the first batch of recipients in 2002 which include Dr. Gilbert Llanto.

Previous Medallion recipients include Dr. Lucio Tan for entrepreneurship and civic involvement, Land Bank President Margarito Teves for governance, Rural Bank Association of the Phils. (RBAP) past president Atty. Nicholas Lim for leadership and Dr. Gilberto Llanto for advocacy.

Medallion recipients this year are Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, SEARCA Director Arsenio Balisacan, RBAP President Daniel Vidal Arcenas and Monetary Board member Melito Salazar, Jr. The Medallion is the Filipino nation's fitting recognition to the excellence and continuing cause for rural development the esteemed awardees have displayed in their profession.

Aside from the Agri-Credit Achievement Medallion, the Gawad QUEDANCOR for this year will also be awarded to outstanding partner banks and clients.

Likewise, as part of the information campaign of QUEDANCOR, a series of press meetings shall be held in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao. QUEDANCOR President and CEO Nelson C. Buenaflor is expected to announce recent significant corporate developments such as the fresh funds and credit lines that have been worked out with partner banks, to ensure the sustainability of QUEDANCOR's credit progams.

With Buenaflor's introduction of the Self-Reliant Team (SRT) financing approach three years ago, there have been an overflow of loan applications that QUEDANCOR had to tap the resources of its banking allies to service the volume of rural credit requirements. From P280 Million loaned out to 20,000 borrowers nationwide in 2001, lending operations last year jumped to P2.9 Billion for 580,000 borrowers, mostly farmers, fisherfolk and small entrepreneurs.

2004 Agri-Credit Achievement Medallion Awardees:

Champions of Rural Finance and Countryside Development

Secretary Juanita Amatong

A familiar face at the Department of Finance (DoF), Sec. Amatong took her Masters Degree in Economics and Public Administration at the Syracuse University in New York, and a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration at the Silliman University where she graduated Cum Laude.

One of her first actions as new DoF chief was to order the exemption of low-earning farmers from advance taxes on income. Previously, small farmers selling crops such as copra, abaca and other non-food agricultural products were subject to the one percent withholding tax.

AMATONG
BALISACAN
BUENAVENTURA
SALAZAR
ARCENAS

Likewise, Amatong proposed to take a closer look at the resources of local government units as these can be used to create more job opportunities and spur the economic development of the countryside.

As a member of the Agricultural Credit Policy Council, she expressed support for more investments in agriculture to further stimulate rural growth.

Significantly, it was Amatong who advised QUEDANCOR Pres. & CEO Nelson C. Buenaflor to venture into the capital market to sustain the corporation's agri- lending operations. Thus, Amatong provided QUEDANCOR the inspiration and direction in tapping the private funds of banks and become less dependent on government as the corporation goes about fulfilling its mandate for the agriculture sector.

Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura

Gov. Rafael B. Buenaventura has headed the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) since 1999. Under his watch, he has brought inflation rates to lowest levels since the mid-1980s, and boost bank lending by trimming interest rates. He prompted transparency among transactions entered into by the BSP and commercial banks.

To keep the stability of the banking system and ensure a greater number have access to funds, Buenaventura spearheaded the campaign to approve new laws against money laundering. He also played a key role in passing a law in 2000 that had disbursed $36 million in loans to the country's poor. During his stewardship of the BSP, he was adjudged as the "Central Bank Governor of the Year for the Asian Region" in 2001 by the *Banker magazine* in recognition of his efforts in introducing reforms that adhered to the expansion of the Philippines' micro credit programs. He was also named as one of "Asia's Outstanding Bankers" by *Asiamoney* in 1991 for his remarkable performance in fiscal management.

These accomplishments are results of the experiences he acquired in the academe. He finished his Bachelor of Science in Commerce at the De La Salle University and acquired his MBA at Stern Graduate School of Business, New York University. He also attended the Advanced Management Program of Harvard University/University of Hawaii.

BSP Monetary Board member Melito S. Salazar, Jr.

A Business Administration and MBA graduate of the University of the Philippines, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Monetary Board Member Melito S. Salazar Jr. once served as Undersecretary for the Department of Trade and Industry during the two previous administrations. Mr. Salazar is also involved in the academe as professor at the UP College of Business Administration.

He is a known personality in the business sector having published several works that focused on the country's business and trade scenery, such as Greening the Philippine Banking System, Markets and Market Development for Small-scale Enterprises, and Equity, Globalization and Development.

In his speech before the Asian Development Bank, Mr. Salazar discussed the state of micro- finance in the country and how important it is for banks, especially in the countryside, to invest in this program because of its client-friendly features. Mr. Salazar stressed that this would produce millions of bankable clients for banking institutions. This in turn, has influenced a number of countryside banks to go into micro-finance.

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Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan is the current director of the Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) which is the regional center for agriculture of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO). He also serves as president of the Philippine Human Development Network and is an Adviser (on the Implementation of Millennium Development Goals) to the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. A product of the Mariano Marcos State University in Ilocos Norte where he finished a degree in agriculture, Dr. Balisacan earned his Masters in Economics at the UP and his PhD at the University of Hawaii.

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His works have also became references for the promotion and strengthening of rural financing in the country, including one for the National Economic Development Authority, where he prepared a paper that addressed the financing of rural infrastructure projects stressing on the importance of environmental and social objectives.

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During his tenure as RBAP chief, Mr. Arcenas has maintained close linkages with key government agencies, especially QUEDANCOR in promoting development in the countryside thru the implementation of various livelihood as well as credit and financing programs.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

THE 2004 NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF AGRI-CREDIT WEEK

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'02
CONVENTION
BALISACAN
AMATONG
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SALAZAR

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PNP: Arrest of Abu Sayyaf chief imminent

By Christian Esguerra

THE PHILIPPINE National Police yesterday all but predicted the imminent arrest of Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani, triggering speculations that the notorious bandit leader and terrorist may already be in custody.

In a press statement, Director General Hermogenes Ebdane said the PNP would deliver the "final blow" to the resurgent bandit group by arresting its top leader whose capture carries a bounty of $5 million from the United States and another P10 million from the Philippine government.

Observers noted that the announcement of the impending arrest was quite uncharacteristic of Ebdane who in the past has been extremely cautious about divulging details of planned police operations.

A ranking PNP official yesterday said Ebdane "may know something we do not know."

But Director Robert Delfin, the PNP intelligence director, said the arrest of Janjalani was "not yet in the bag."

Ebdane was reportedly in high spirits and elated in predicting Janjalani's arrest after meeting with top police officials during a command conference in Subic, Zambales yesterday.

The PNP chief pressed all regional directors and heads of national support units in Mindanao to intensify the hunt for the Abu Sayyaf leader, apparently motivated by President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to raise the reward for Janjalani's arrest to P10 million.

"It is a gesture that manifests the government's firm resolve to put an end to the Abu Sayyaf menace," Ebdane said in the statement.

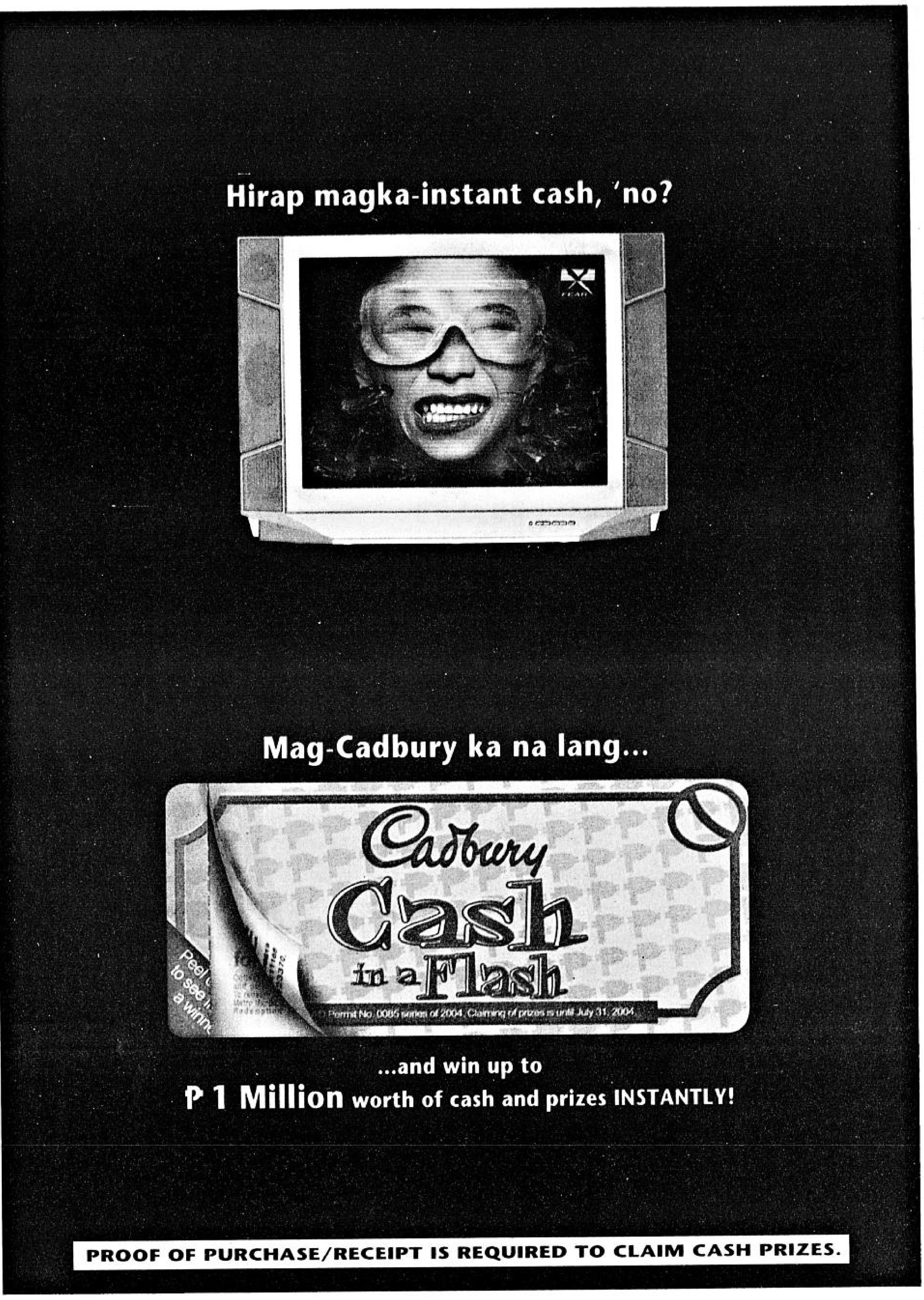
His optimism may also have been fueled by the PNP's recent triumphs against the extremist group which the US has linked to the al-Qaida international terror network of Osama bin Laden.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group arrested Abu sub-commander Isni Ruddin Lagayasan alias Otoh Hapikin in Lamitan, Basilan last Tuesday.

Lagayasan, who carried a P1 million reward on his head, had 10 standing arrest warrants for his alleged involvement in the abduction of 53 teachers and students, including Fr. Rhoel Gallardo, from four schools in Tumahubong, Basilan in 2000. Gallardo was later found to have been tortured and beheaded.

Five days before Lagayasan's arrest, the First Scout Ranger Battalion headed by Col. Noel Buan, killed Janjalani's deputy Hamsiraji Sali and five other Abu Sayyaf members in Barangay Makiri, Lantawan town.

However, this success has been somewhat dented by the escape of 53 inmates, including 24 Abu Sayyaf members, from the Basilan provincial jail last Saturday. Thirty of the escapees have since been recaptured or killed.



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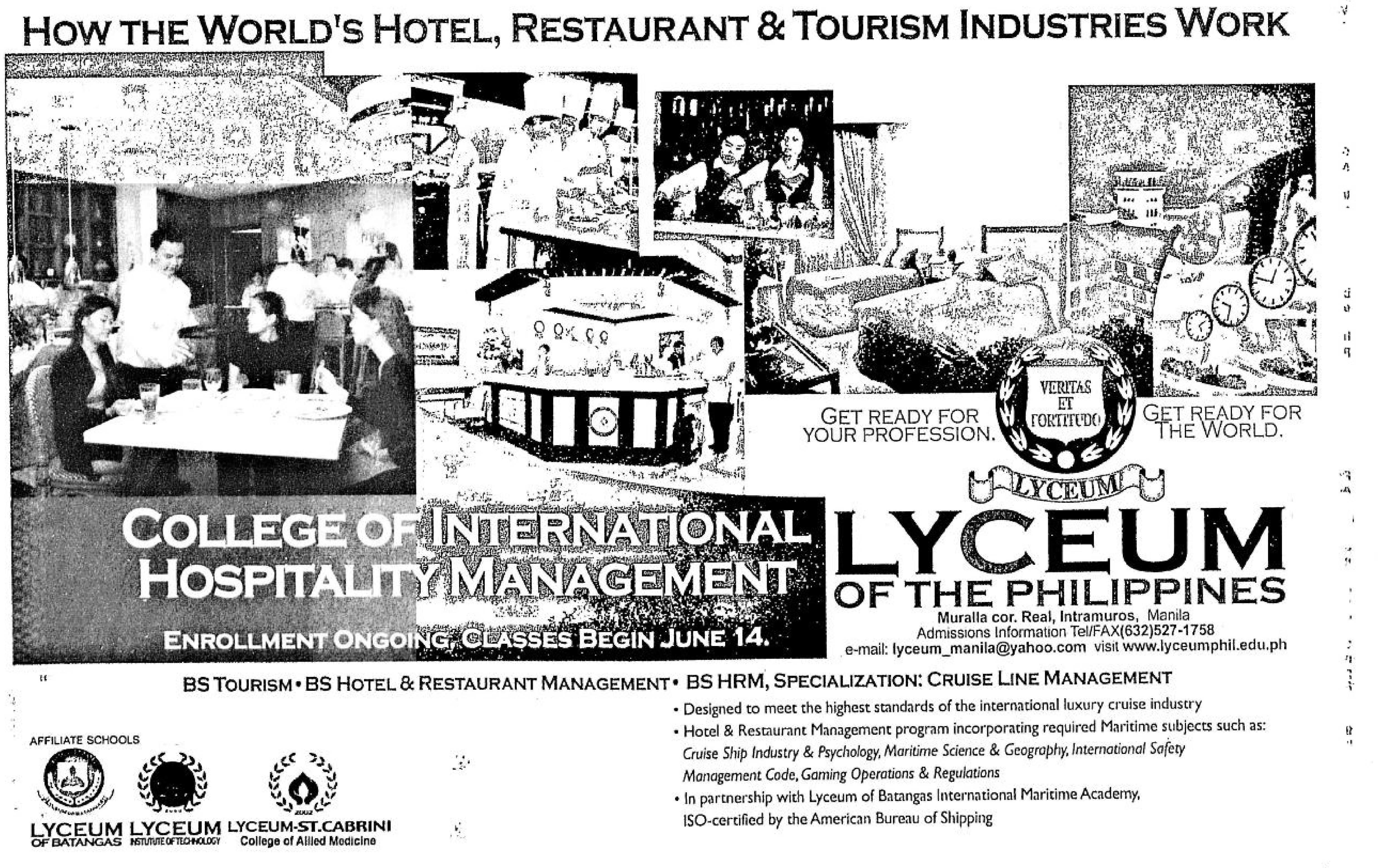

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Roxas 56th death anniversary today

THE COUNTRY commemorates today the 56th death anniversary of President Manuel A. Roxas, the last president of the Commonwealth government and first president of the Republic of the Philippines.

Commemorative activities, beginning with a memorial Mass and wreath laying at the North Cemetery at 7:30 a.m., have been arranged by the President Manuel A. Roxas Foundation (PMARF). A turnover of a video documentary on his life, entitled the "Country Above Self," to the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Knowledge Channel follows at the Manuel Roxas High School in Paco, Manila at 10 a.m. to coincide with the inauguration of the school museum.

In Pampanga, the PMARF and the Clark Development Corp. will sponsor a memorial program at 3 p.m. inside the Clark Air Base, where Roxas died on April 15, 1948. The event will be highlighted by the unveiling of Roxas' statue inside the former US military facility.

The ceremonies will be attended by the late president's family led by his daughter Ruby R. Roxas and daughter-in-law Judy A. Roxas, widow of the late Sen. Gerardo "Gerry" Roxas.

ROXAS

Guests include Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo of DepEd, officials of the National Historical Institute, CDC, Knowledge Channel, the University of the Philippines, Manuel A. Roxas High School, and representatives from various civic organizations in Angeles City.

Anniversary rites, including an exhibit of the late president's memorabilia at the Roxas City Museum, will also be held in Roxas City in Capiz led by Representatives Rodriguez Dadivas and Fredinil Castro, Gov. Vicente Bermejo and Mayor Antonio del Rosario.

For the first time, the entire province will observe April 15 as the President Manuel Roxas Day after it has been declared a special non-working holiday for Capiz under Republic Act No. 9217.

Gordon, too, takes break for tourism

GORDON

SENATORIAL candidate Richard Dick Gordon is temporarily skipping the campaign trail to push for the country's tourism interests during the 53rd Pacific Asia Travel Association (Pata) annual conference slated on April 17-19 at Jeju Island, Republic of Korea.

"The actual work of pushing our country's interests is definitely more important than trying to fix a title to one's name. Promoting our tourism industry is very vital to our country's growth and development," said Gordon who served as tourism secretary before resigning to run for senator under the K4 slate.

He stressed that while every campaign day is crucial to one's election victory "I realize that I have greater responsibility to fulfill not only to the country but also to the members of Pata of which I am Chairman."

Gordon who was elected in absentia last year as Pata Chairman (2003-2004) has been cited for helping the Asia-Pacific tourism industry weather the devastating effects of the SARS outbreak on tourism last year.

RP agri grants from FAO hit $3.5M in 5 years

THE ROME-BASED Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) had given the Philippines grants from 1999 to 2003 totaling $3.48 million to strengthen the country's agricultural sector.

Ambassador Philippe J. Lhuillier, Philippine Ambassador to Italy and Permanent Representative to FAO in the past five years, said the United Nations agency has been fully supportive of the Philippine government's efforts to strengthen the country's food security by modernizing the agricultural sector.

Lhuillier said making agriculture a stronger pillar of the economy can generate jobs particularly in the countryside, produce enough to make food available to everybody, and export to generate foreign exchange.

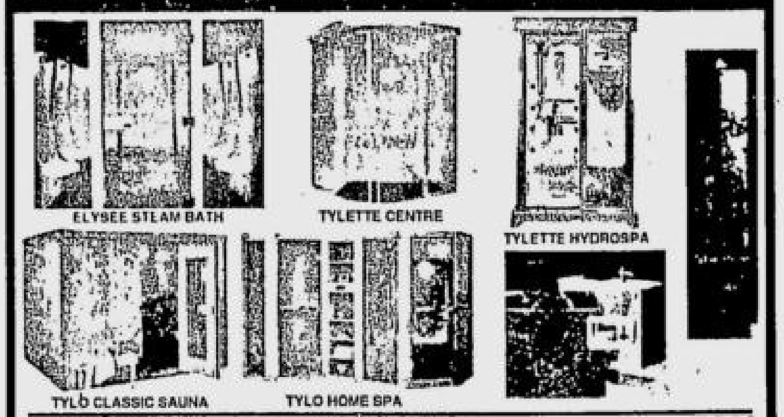
He said a FAO study had found that hunger worldwide is made worse not by lack of food but by a person's lack of money to buy food. He said agricultural jobs would give rural folks money and an abundant produce would bring down prices.

"It has been my focus as FAO representative to achieve these. The grants we have obtained might seem small but they are a strategic push forward as we try to regain the old glory of our agricultural sector," he said.

He said the Philippines was elected to the FAO Council twice (2001-2003 and 2003-2005).

The government spent P24.21 billion for agriculture and fisheries modernization in 2001 and P24.36 billion in 2002 and allocated P33 billion last year.

Among the government's programs lauded by the FAO were the improvement of farm irrigation systems, distribution of post-harvest machinery and the construction of farming facilities, the improvement of farm- to- market roads and fish ports and the use of hybrid rice.



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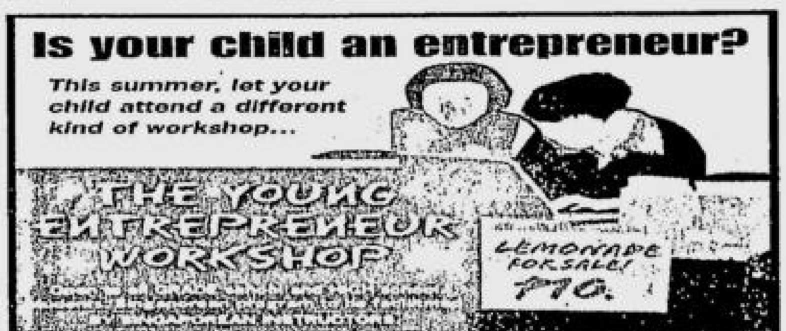

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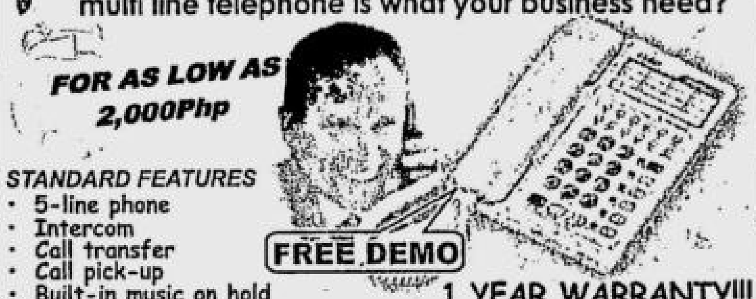

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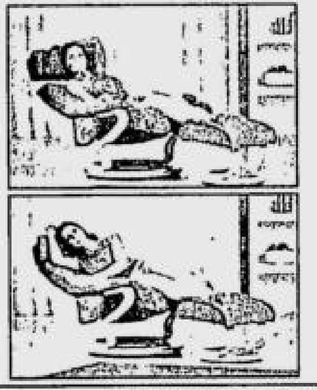

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SC junks Mega Pacific's 2nd appeal

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court junked another motion to overturn its decision voiding the Commission on Election's controversial P1.3 billion poll computerization program.

In a minute resolution dated March 30, the tribunal denied a second motion for reconsideration filed by Mega Pacific eSolutions and Mega Pacific Consortium because "filing a second motion ... is a prohibited pleading" under the Rules of Civil Procedure.

The SC noted the accompanying motion "without action," and decided "No further pleadings will be entertained."

Mega Pacific filed a second motion for reconsideration after the SC junked their first motion on Feb. 18.

In that SC resolution, the tribunal said the Comelec commissioners should come to their senses and realize "the gravity of their misdeeds" as it upheld its Jan. 13 ruling that voided the Comelec poll automation contract with the Mega Pacific.

"Essentially, movants raised the same procedural and substantive issues already exhaustively discussed and definitively passed upon in our decision," the SC said.

"No compelling reasons have been adduced to justify the modification or reversal of the Court's findings and conclusions on such issues. For the foregoing reasons, the motions are denied. This denial is final," it added.

The SC voted 9-3-2 in denying the appeals of the Comelec and the consortium.

Issues

Associate Justices Dante Tinga, Renato Corona and Adolfo Azcuna dissented while Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Jose Vitug reiterated their stand that there were still issues about the contract that needed to be resolved.

The tribunal took issue with the respondents' complaint that they were unfairly singled out for prosecution, unlike the SC rulings in the PEA-Amari land scam and the Piatco airport terminal deal, wherein the court ordered the Ombudsman and the Solicitor General to determine their criminal and civil liabilities.

"While the contracts in the Amari and Piatco cases were mainly commercial in nature, here—as already explained in the decision—"the illegal, hasty and imprudent actions of the Commission have not only desecrated legal and jurisprudential norms but have also cast serious doubts upon the poll body's ability and capacity to conduct automated elections," the SC said.

"Truly, the pith and soul of democracy—credible, orderly and peaceful elections—have been put in jeopardy by the illegal and abusive acts of the Comelec," the court added.

The tribunal pointed out that in the Amari and Piatco cases, there was no irregular disbursement of public funds. In the computerization program, however, the government has earmarked P1.3 billion, "of which nearly P850 million has already been irregularly paid to private respondents by Comelec," the SC said.

Public interest

"Certainly, public interest requires the recovery of this enormous sum, and the punishment of those who may be criminally responsible," it added.

The tribunal also pointed out that the Court did not "make any premature conclusion on any wrongdoing" when it ordered an investigation on the culpability of the officials involved in the automation contract.

"The Court ... precisely directed the Ombudsman to make that determination, after conducting the appropriate proceedings and after observing the process," the SC said.

The Court emphasized that, contrary to the appellants' "insinuation," the January ruling "did not per se prohibit the automation of the elections."

The SC said it merely voided the contract "for having been made and executed with inexplicable haste" and "in clear violation not only of law and settled jurisprudence" but also of the Comelec's own bidding rules and requirements.

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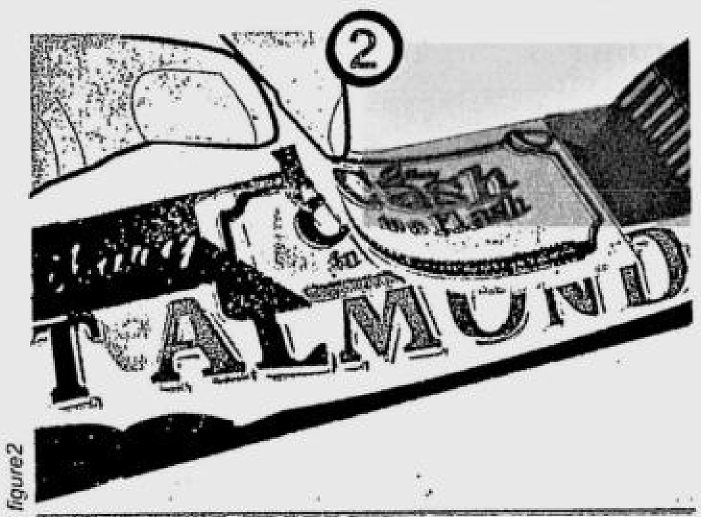

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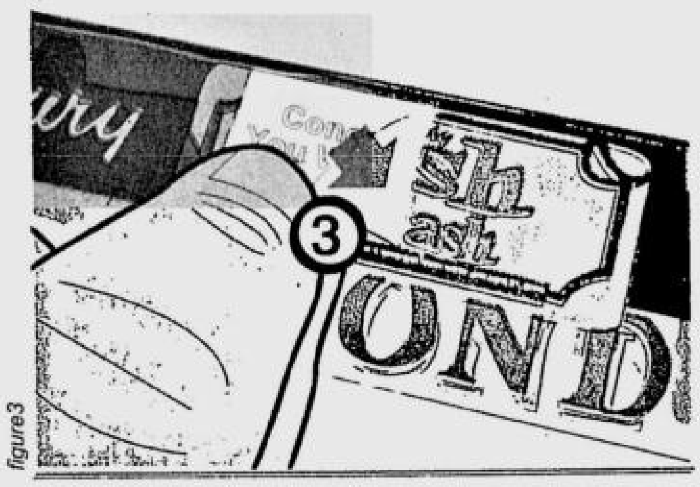

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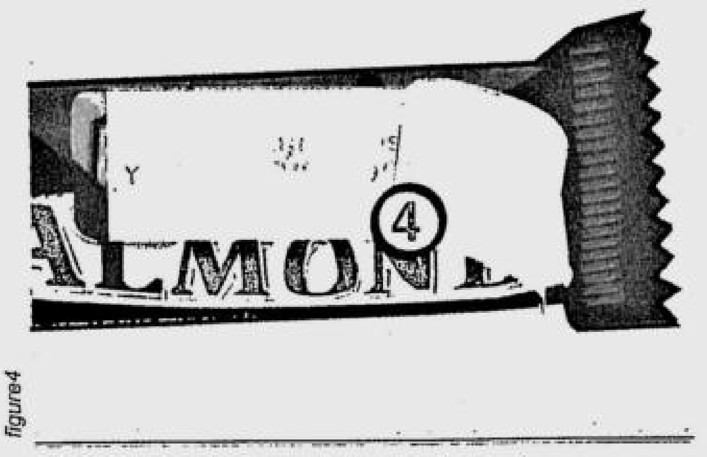

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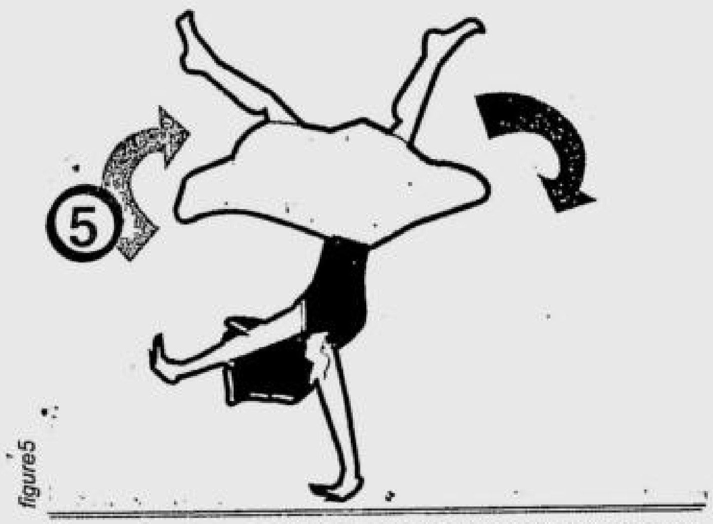

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RP antiterror drive a model

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday Washington had praised her government as a "model" in the global fight against terrorism following the arrest and elimination of key members of the extremist Abu Sayyaf in the past weeks.

The President told a business forum that her anti-terror campaign had netted major terrorist personalities like Abu Sabaya and Al-Ghozi and had reduced greatly the Abu Sayyaf's capability to launch massive bombings in the level of the attacks in Madrid, Bali and the World Trade Center in New York.

"The US government said we are a model in the fight against terrorism," said Ms Macapagal at yesterday's forum of major business organizations led by the Makati Business Club.

Ms Macapagal also underscored the importance of keeping close ties with the US and other countries, saying that terrorism was "a transnational crime that required transnational partners."

Press reports earlier said that Washington officials had met with Ms Macapagal last month in Malacañang and expressed their serious concern on her administration's soft stance on anti-terrorism.

The New York Times claimed that after the reminder, Manila had stepped up the crackdown on terrorists over the last three weeks, including the creation of an anti-terrorist task force on March 22.

Philippine National Police chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane said yesterday that they were intensifying the manhunt for Abu Sayyaf leader Khaddafy Janjalani to "deliver the final blow" against the terrorist.

Janjalani, who escaped from a detention cell at the PNP headquarters in 1995, is believed hiding in central Mindanao after US-trained government troops flushed him out of his stronghold in Basilan and nearby Jolo provinces. *With reports from Christian Esguerra, Alcuin Papa, AP*

2 soldiers rescued . . .

From page A1

Although they were "in good physical condition," Rapadas and Javier "looked tired and haggard" when they were found by the rescue team, Lapinid said.

"The rebels withdrew to the mountains after they sensed that they were overpowered by our troops. This is really a big blow to them," Lapinid told the INQUIRER in a mobile phone interview.

The military recovered a light anti-tank weapon and 20 backpacks that contained documents and personal belongings of the rebels, according to Col. Fernando Mesa, head of the PA 204th Infantry Brigade based in Naujan.

Mesa said the firefight started just before 6 p.m. after the military received reports from residents that they saw several unidentified armed men heading toward the mountainous part of Barangay Masaguisi.

He said the team of the 68th Battalion headed by Lt. Col. Jonas Suizo went to the place and confirmed that the armed men belonged to the same NPA unit that snatched Rapadas and Javier in Barangay Campamento in Pola town on Sunday.

The two, together with Pola Mayor Alex Aranas, Vice Mayor Arturo Martinez, PO1 Ronald Reanzares and eight others, were abducted while they were on a campaign sortie.

Larry's group earlier released Reanzares for "humanitarian" reasons," NPA spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said in a radio interview. Rosal said Reanzares did not have a "blood debt" to Pola residents yet because he was new to the province.

Campaign fees

The NPA said it abducted Aranas, Martinez and their group in separate occasions for their failure to pay "permit-to-campaign" fees. Aranas agreed to pay half of the P200,000 in PTC fee soon and the other half after the May 10 elections.

Marita Jimenez, secretary for Official Development Assistance Projects, who attended the press conference, said the abduction was pure terrorism. "The election is a constitutional process,"

She said the military would file kidnap-for-ransom cases against the NPA leadership.

The President stood firm on the government policy of non-negotiation for the release of the soldiers and non-payment of the campaign fees, according to Jimenez.

She said that upon learning of the rescue, President Macapagal-Arroyo was very happy and congratulated the soldiers and policemen who took part in the operation.

Triumph of good

"Our soldiers and policemen were really determined to show these terrorists that we can handle them and that we don't need to negotiate with them. Although they were armed with high-powered weapons, our troops outwitted them," Mesa told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He added: "This is a clear message to all candidates that they need not talk with the NPA for their supposed protection because we could give it to them without paying extortion money and stay loyal to established laws."

"My two soldiers broke into smiles when they saw the rescue groups. The good will always prevail over t[illegible]vil," Mesa said i[illegible]ne interview. [illegible] *reports from Christian Esguerra and Alcuin Papa*

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF SPI TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

All shareholders of SPI Technologies, Inc. ("SPI") are hereby notified that on April 5, 2004, **THLPV ACQUISITION, L.P.** ("the Bidder") has filed a Tender Offer Report (SEC Form 19-1) with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and the Philippine Stock Exchange ("PSE") pursuant to Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code. The Bidder, which is a limited partnership organized in the State of Delaware, U.S.A., intends to acquire, through a wholly-owned Philippine subsidiary it intends to establish for the purpose during the Tender Offer Period, 100% of the fully diluted share capital of SPI (the "Shares")

The Tender Offer shall commence at 9:00 a.m. on April 12, 2004 and end at 3:00 p.m. on May 7, 2004 (the "Tender Offer Period"). The Shares are intended to be crossed on the PSE on May 20, 2004.

Should any of the business days during the period from April 12, 2004, the commencement of the Tender Offer Period and May 20, 2004, the Cross Date, inclusive, be officially declared a non-working holiday after the filing of the Tender Offer Report (SEC Form 19-1) on April 5, 2004, the period shall be extended by the number of business days corresponding to those which were declared as non-working holidays.

The purchase price for the acquisition of the Shares is US$67.230 million or US$0.2794 for each share and will be payable in US Dollars. SPI's shareholders who wish to convert their US Dollar proceeds into Philippine Pesos at the exchange rate to be quoted by Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corporation (the "Paying Agent") should so indicate in their Application to Tender. The exchange rate will be equivalent to the weighted average rate of all the Philippine Peso/US Dollar trades transacted at the Philippine Dealing System as of 11:30 a.m. one business day prior to the payment date for the tendered SPI shares, minus PhP0.05 for every US$1.00.

ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners, Inc., the Bidder's advisor, has received confirmation from the legal counsel to TH Lee Putnam Ventures, L.P., who owns 100% of the Bidder, and TH Lee Putnam Parallel Ventures, L.P. (the "Funds") that, based solely on the records of the Funds as of March 22, 2004, the Funds have an aggregate of approximately US$349.7 million in uncalled capital commitments which may be called upon with ten business days prior written notice. The foregoing confirmation indicates that resources are available to the Bidder sufficient to satisfy full acceptance of the Tender Offer.

The Bidder intends to pay the tendered and accepted shares on May 20, 2004. Payments for the tendered and accepted shares shall be made available by the Paying Agent for pick up by the tendering shareholders after 3:00 p.m. of May 20, 2004 at the following address: HSBC Trust Department, 30/F Discovery Centre, 25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City. Contact person: Junji Arias (63-2) 683-2743.

Every shareholder of SPI is entitled to tender all or a portion of his/its Shares for acceptance and purchase by the Bidder, subject to the Terms of the Tender Offer, copies of which will be sent to all Shareholders.

Tendering Shareholders who hold stock certificates ("Scrip Shareholders") should submit within the Tender Offer Period their duly endorsed stock certificates and the duly accomplished Application together with the following requirements to ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. (the "Depository"), 17th Floor, Tower One & Exchange Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Telephone No. (63-2) 849-8888 (Contact Person: Nilaida S. Enriquez):

If you are an
INDIVIDUAL SHAREHOLDER,
please submit the following, personally or through your attorney-in-fact:

1. Two (2) valid identification cards containing the photo and specimen signature of the shareholder.
2. For shareholders acting through an attorney-in-fact, a duly notarized Special Power of Attorney substantially in the form prescribed by the Bidder (*N.B.* Endorsement of stock certificate/s must be made by the shareholder himself).
3. A duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signature of the shareholder and verified by his broker (the name of the broker and the broker's signatory must be specified) or officer of the bank (the name of the bank and the bank's officer must be specified) where he is maintaining an account.

If you are a
CORPORATE SHAREHOLDER,
Please submit the following:

1. Certified true copies of the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of the shareholder and latest amendment/s thereof.
2. A notarized Secretary's Certificate substantially in the form prescribed by the Bidder setting forth resolutions of the tendering shareholder's Board of Directors authorizing the tender and sale of SPI Shares and designating the signatories for the purpose.
3. A duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signatures of its authorized signatories validated by the Corporate Secretary and verified by its broker (the name of the broker and the broker's signatory must be specified) or officer of the bank (the name of the bank and the bank's officer must be specified) where it is maintaining an account.

For the convenience of Scrip Shareholders based in Visayas and Mindanao, SPI shares may be tendered by submitting the foregoing requirements at the Cebu and Davao branch offices of the Depository not later than April 30, 2004.

ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc.
Cebu Branch
Mezzanine Floor, TPG Center
Escario cor. F. Ramos Sts.
Cebu City
Telephone No.: (63-32) 255-1888
Contact Person: [Cheryl M. Lim]

ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc.
Davao Branch
Dr. #7 M.T. Aquino Building
Cabaguio Avenue Corner
Bolcan Street, Davao City
Telephone No.: (63-82) 224-2860
Contact Person: Miguel Luis R. Aquino

After said dates, Scrip Shareholders in Visayas and Mindanao may tender their shares only with the Depository's head office in Makati City.

The Depository will submit the share certificates for validation to SPI's Stock Transfer Agent: Union Bank of the Philippines, c/o Mr. Moises L. Almanon, Jr., 3rd Floor, SSS Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Telephone No. (63-2) 893-8584 or (63-2) 892-0011, Local 2351/2352). Defective applications (*e.g.*, with discrepancy between the specimen signatures on file and the endorsement) must be corrected within the Tender Offer Period to avoid being rejected by the Bidder. Hence, shareholders are strongly urged against tendering at the last minute to allow sufficient time to correct any deficiency in their application. Shareholders are also urged to indicate their telephone numbers in their respective application forms to allow the Depository to inform them immediately of any deficiency in their applications.

Tendering shareholders whose shares are lodged with the Philippine Central Depository Nominee Corporation ("PCD") ("Scripless Shareholders") should instruct their brokers to electronically transfer their shares to ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. (the "Broker") for receipt by the Broker prior to 3:00 p.m. of May 7, 2004. The Broker shall hold the tendered common shares only as custodian for said shares.

Tendering shareholders shall have the right to withdraw any tendered shares at any time during the Tender Offer Period. For a withdrawal to be effective, a written notice of withdrawal must be received by the Depository (for Scrip Shareholders) or by the Broker (for Scripless Shareholders) before 3:00 p.m. of May 7, 2004.

Copies of SEC Form 19-1 and the tender offer application kit may be obtained by Shareholders from the Depository/Broker at their addresses stated above. Copies of SEC Form 19-1 may also be downloaded by the Shareholders from SPI's website: www.spitech.com. Copies of this letter, along with the Application and the attachments, will be sent to the shareholders of record as of March 16, 2004 by personal delivery or registered mail.

For inquiries about the Bidder or the Tender Offer, please contact **Platon Martinez Flores San Pedro & Leaño** at (63-2) 867-4696 or **Ms. Nilaida Enriquez** of the Depository at its address set forth earlier in this letter.

(PDI-April 12, 13 & 14, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

MEMORANDUM ORDER NO. 19-2004

TO : ALL TRIAL JUDGES

SUBJECT : IMMEDIATE ISSUANCE OF RELEASE ORDERS OF PRISONERS

WHEREAS, the Constitution safeguards the right of all persons to a speedy disposition of their cases before all courts;

WHEREAS, despite the dismissal of their cases or their acquittal, a number of accused remain detained for days, if not for weeks or even months, because of the delay in the preparation, signing, or delivery to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) of an Order for their release; and

WHEREAS, prisoners have the right to be released when (1) their cases are dismissed for any valid reason; (2) they are acquitted by the courts; or (3) they have undergone preventive imprisonment for a period equal to or more than the possible maximum imprisonment penalty for the offense charged to which they may be sentenced, but their cases are not yet terminated. (Article 29, last paragraph, Revised Penal Code).

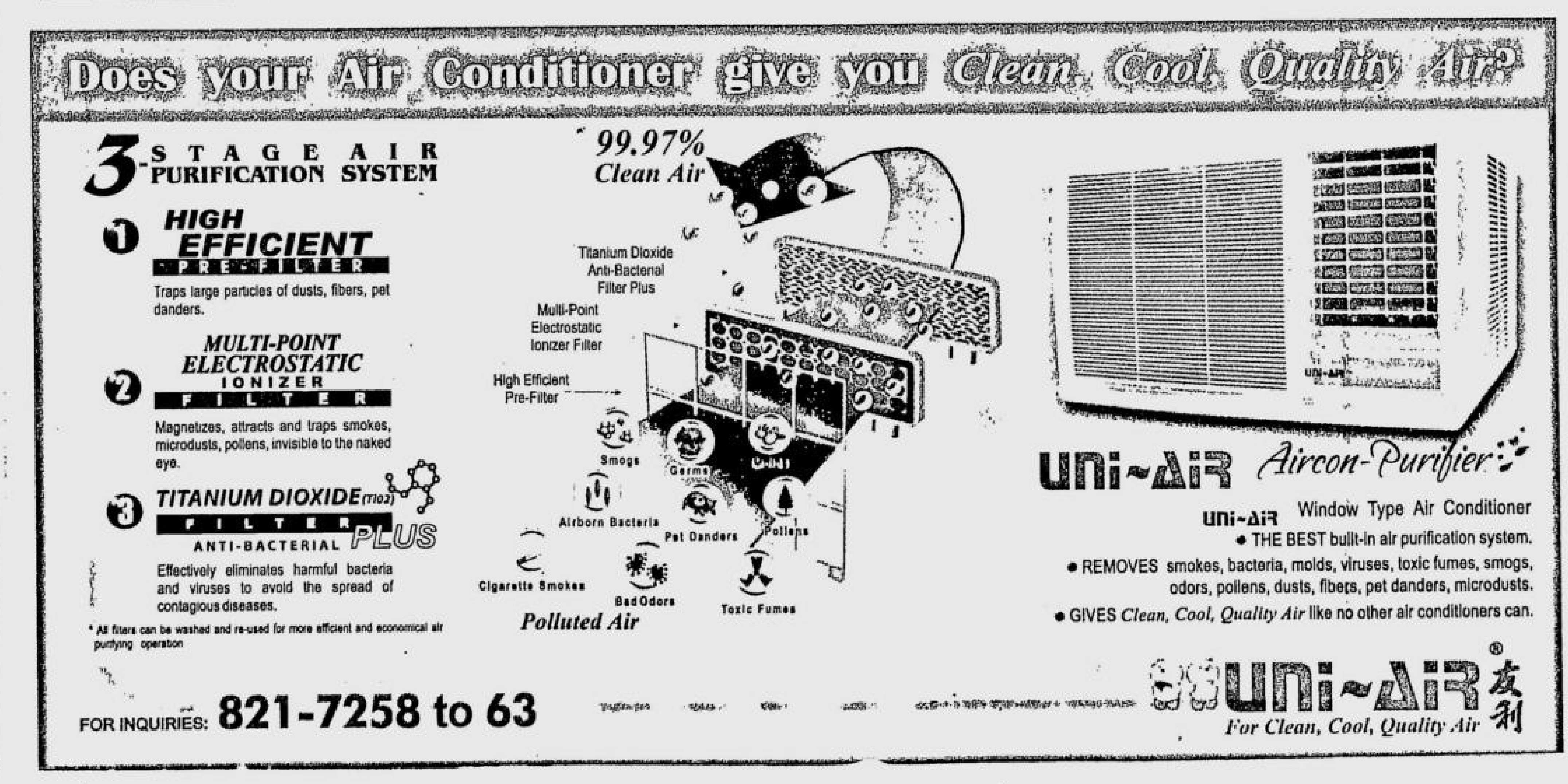
NOW, THEREFORE, all trial judges are directed

1. To be ready with an Order of Release on the date set for the promulgation of a decision acquitting the accused; or dismissing the case and the dismissal amounts to an acquittal;
2. To sign the Order of Release immediately after the promulgation of the decision of acquittal or of the order of dismissal amounting to an acquittal; and
3. To direct the Sheriff or Process Server to forthwith serve in open court a copy of the Release Order to the BJMP escort of the prisoner. The escort shall be under strict orders to deliver the Release Order to the Jail Warden, who, in turn, shall immediately enforce it subject to the routinary verification of the prisoner's other pending cases, as well as the processing and recording of the prisoner's release.

This Memorandum shall take effect immediately. The Clerk of Court shall cause its publication in the newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines. The Court Administrator shall ensure compliance therewith by all concerned.

Issued this 2nd day of April 2004

HILARIO G. DAVIDE, JR.
Chief Justice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GMA mulls pullout of RP troops in Iraq

From page A1

of the Philippine contingent.

In February, 12 Filipino soldiers were slightly hurt when their camp was attacked by suicide bombers.

The Philippines was one of the first countries to back President Bush in his campaign against terror after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington.

Ms Macapagal's support for the US-led war has elicited praises from Washington and spurred increased US military assistance for the Philippines.

She has also allowed American troops to train Filipino soldiers in fighting the Abu Sayyaf bandits in the south.

Ms Macapagal said that while her government was determined to help the Iraqi people rebuild their nation, "the safety of our peacekeeping forces in Iraq is still our outmost concern."

Commitment

"The government will take all precautionary measures to ensure the safety of our contingent," she said.

Ms Macapagal stressed her government's commitment to democracy in Iraq "is unsullied."

She added: "We stand shoulder to shoulder with the international community in this commitment and that is why we are not making any rash decisions."

Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Julia Heidemann said that, so far, there was no reason to pull out the Filipino troops.

Filipinos 'very safe'

She said an inter-agency task force, which includes the DFA and the defense department, "would continue monitoring and assessing the condition in Iraq, with the safety of our soldiers there being the primary concern."

Heidemann told reporters: "They are very, very safe. They themselves are saying they feel that they are safe and secured where they are."

Heidemann said the commander of the Filipino contingent was in constant touch with the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad for developments.

The Filipino troops have also been told to be extra-vigilant and to take stringent precautions so they would not fall victim to kidnapping or ambush, she said.

Tough call

The soldiers have also been told not to roam far from their camp and to take adequate measures when traveling, she added.

A DFA official said Malacañang may have difficulty in making a decision soon on whether or not to withdraw the troops.

The official, who asked not to be named, said the presence of the contingent in Iraq was slowly becoming a political issue and that the President would have to listen to public opinion before making a decision.

"We should balance our commitment to our major ally, the US, on the one hand, and our concern for the safety of our troops in Iraq on the other," the official said. "We are fortunate that nobody in our contingent has been killed or seriously injured."

A party-list representative yesterday called for the immediate pullout of the Philippine contingent.

Rep. Kim Bernardo-Lokin of the Citizens' Battle Against Corruption (Cibac) urged the government to act swiftly and decisively.

Target of US enemis

Lokin also asked Ms Macapagal to defer plans to send 43 replacement volunteers to Iraq following what she said was US failure to release the needed funds for the mission.

The Philippines originally sent a 96-member peacekeeping mission to Iraq for a six-month duty. It withdrew half of the number in March after medical workers demanded immediate repatriation.

Left-wing groups have also called for the withdrawal of the Filipino contingent, saying the Philippines could be targeted by Washington's enemies. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Inquirer wires*

RP cops pinpoint location of captives

By Alcuin Papa

POLICE yesterday said they suspect the two Malaysians and one Indonesian abducted by Abu Sayyaf guerrillas last Sunday were being held in the Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi group of islands near the country's sea border with Malaysia.

The kidnappers and their hostages arrived on the small island of Buan hours after the seamen were seized from their barge off Lingkian island near the Malaysian state of Sabah, a police report said.

Operations to rescue Sam Walterpel of Indonesia and Malaysians Wong Sien Nung and Toh Chien Tiong were underway, it added.

On Tuesday, the Malaysian government confirmed that the kidnappers were members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), a Muslim rebel group with suspected ties to the al-Qaida network, the Islamic group blamed for the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the US.

Philippine Navy spokesperson Capt. Geronimo Malabanan also confirmed that the abductors were indeed ASG, led by a certain Lajib. However, the Philippine National Police said the abductors were led by a certain Amil Sali. *With a report from AFP*

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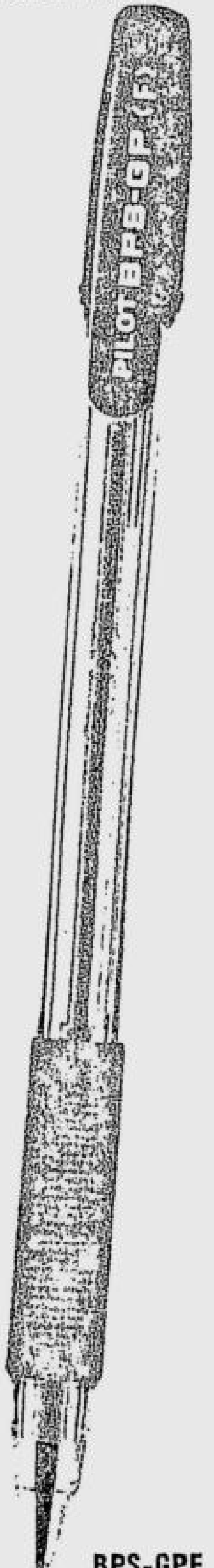

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US troops prepare to assault Shiite holy city

BAGHDAD—US forces massed outside one of Iraq's holiest cities on Wednesday after vowing to kill or capture a radical Shiite cleric based there.

Russia said it would airlift out more than 800 of its nationals and citizens of ex-Soviet states to escape a hostage free-for-all and worsening violence sweeping Iraq.

The military buildup around Najaf, south of Baghdad, was going ahead just hours after US President George W. Bush vowed to stay the course in Iraq despite a surge in violence and said a June 30 handover to Iraqi sovereignty would go ahead.

As tension mounted in Najaf, Iraqi mediators said they had extended a shaky truce in the embattled Sunni town of Fallujah for 48 hours from 9 a.m. on Wednesday.

But violence flared in Baghdad where US soldiers fired on looters raiding a military truck previously ambushed on the airport road. A Reuters photographer said he saw several Iraqis lying motionless and bleeding after the shooting.

Bush said his generals, who have asked for two more brigades—about 10,000 troops—to be sent to Iraq would get them.

Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, a senior military spokesperson, said a powerful US force was building outside Najaf, where Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr has taken refuge near the city's main Imam Ali shrine, sacred to all the world's Shiite Muslims.

At a rare White House news conference, Bush called on the fiery cleric to disband his militia, which launched an uprising this month after US-led authorities closed Sadr's newspaper, said he was wanted for murder and detained his top aide.

The revolt, which took US officials by surprise, came as insurgents from the smaller Sunni Muslim population—to which Saddam Hussein belonged—responded to a military crackdown in central Iraq by taking on US marines in major street battles.

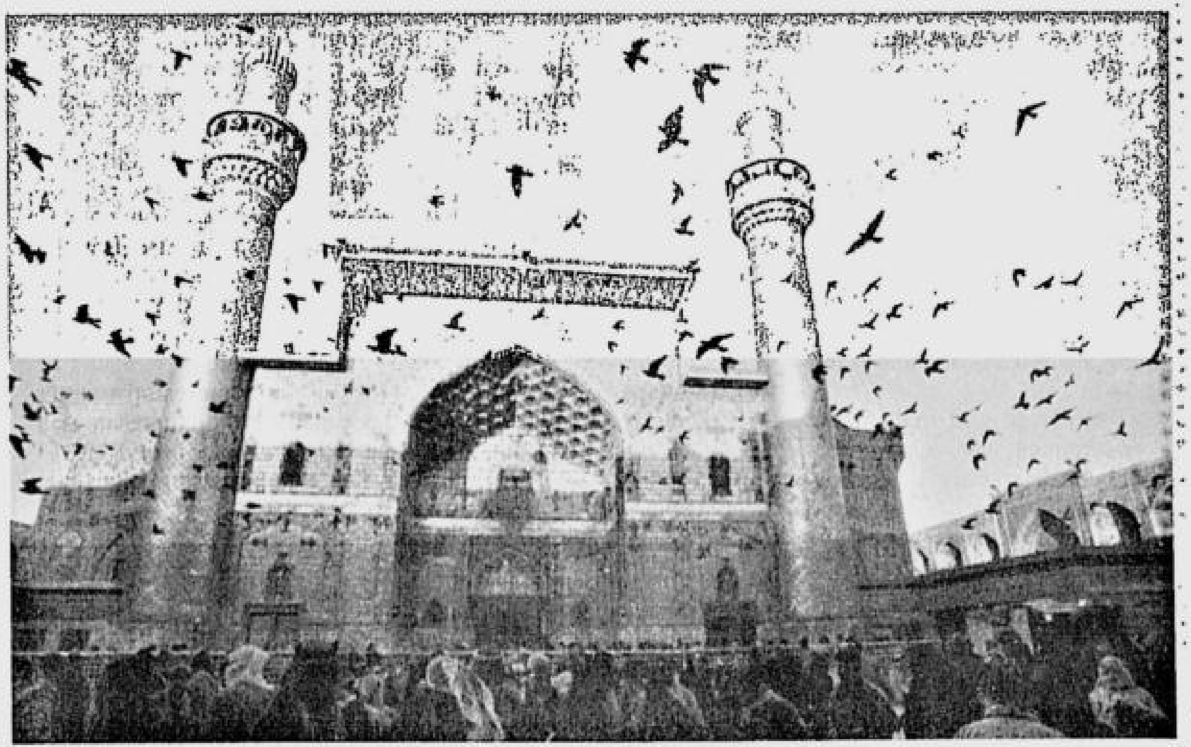
Hundreds of Iraqis and scores of foreign troops have died in the fighting, including 83 Americans killed in combat, making April the deadliest month for the US military since Saddam fell a year ago.

The violence has spurred insurgents to kidnap more than 40 foreigners in Iraq, though many have been released.

A French journalist was the latest to join four Italian private security guards, three Japanese civilians, three Czech journalists, two Arab aid workers and a US contractor on the list of reported hostages.

Russia's emergencies ministry said seven flights from Kuwait and Baghdad would take 553 Russians and 263 nationals of former Soviet states out of Iraq later this week.

Three Russians and five Ukrainians were kidnapped in Baghdad on Monday but freed within 19 hours. *Reuters*



BIRDS fly over praying Iraqis in the Shiite Holy shrine of Imam Ali in the city of Najaf, some 160 km south of Iraqi capital Baghdad, in this file photo. US commanders in Iraq have said they want Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr dead or alive and have vowed to re-establish control over Najaf, where he is believed to be residing. REUTERS

Kidnappings bring Iraqi conflict to Asia's door

TOKYO—The rash of kidnappings in Iraq has brought the raging conflict to Asia's doorstep, inflaming what had been seen by many as a distant war with limited impact in the region into a burning domestic concern.

Among Asians, the abductions have targeted Japanese, South Koreans, Chinese, Pakistanis and one each from Nepal, India and the Philippines, sparking outrage and shock in the victims' home countries and riveting national attention on the complexities of the US-led occupation of Iraq.

The hardest-hit has been Japan: Two aid workers and a freelance journalist were grabbed by militants and shown in a video last week blindfolded before heavily armed captors who threatened to kill them unless Tokyo withdrew its troops from Iraq.

But even the shorter-lived kidnappings of other Asians has raised fierce cries of protest and surprise—and a greater personal connection to what is going on in Iraq.

In Japan, the violence in Iraq had already been in the news with the Japanese dispatch of soldiers to southern Iraq to purify water and carry out other humanitarian tasks—a mission that has deeply divided public opinion. But the troops are in an area largely unscathed by violence and have not been seriously affected.

The kidnappings of the Japanese triggered an explosion in media coverage, with a near constant stream of talk shows and interviews on the fighting in Iraq, the viability of Japan's pro-US stance and the prospects for the captives' release.

The hostage drama leads hourly, round-the-clock updates by national broadcaster NHK—even if there are no developments. As of Tuesday, the captives still had not been released, and government officials were cautioning against optimism.

The situation in Iraq has become most personal for families of the kidnapping victims.

"It's so hard for our families because it seems like there has been no progress on winning their freedom," said Takashi Imai, whose 18-year-old son is being held.

The abduction of a group of seven South Korean missionaries ended quickly last Thursday when they were released unharmed after pretending to be doctors and nurses. Despite the happy outcome, the episode left a lasting impression on many in South Korea, which has sent engineers and medics to Iraq and plans to dispatch 3,600 troops.

"The kidnappings of our citizens in Iraq made me feel like the Iraqi situation was my business or my family's business," said Lee Hyun-kyung, an economist in Seoul. *AP*

FBI missed chance to avert attack —commission

WASHINGTON—In a world "blinking red" with terrorist threats against the United States, the FBI missed a last-minute chance to detect a key al-Qaida cell and possibly disrupt the Sept. 11 attacks, the commission investigating the 2001 hijackings said.

Delays and missteps in linking terrorism suspect Zacarias Moussaoui to al-Qaida in the weeks before the attacks were emblematic of chronic problems within the FBI, including limited intelligence and analysis capabilities, outdated technology, poor information-sharing and floundering attempts at reorganization, the commission said Tuesday.

In a day of finger-pointing, the panel chair, Thomas Kean, a former state governor, said two scathing reports compiled by the commission's investigators amounted to "an indictment of the FBI," while Attorney General John Ashcroft took a veiled swipe at former President Bill Clinton's administration.

Louis J. Freeh, who headed the FBI from 1993 to mid-2001, bristled at Kean's words.

"I would ask that you balance what you call an indictment, and which I don't agree with at all, with the two primary findings of your staff," he said. "One is that there was a lack of resources. And two, there were legal impediments" that made it difficult for agents to pursue terrorism investigations.

Former Attorney General Janet Reno also spoke of a lack of resources but said the FBI under Freeh did a poor job keeping track of the information its agents gathered. *AP*

Suharto's old party claims victory at polls

JAKARTA—The head of Indonesia's Golkar party proclaimed victory on Wednesday in Indonesia's general election as partial results showed it still ahead of President Megawati Sukarnoputri's ruling party.

"We are the winner of this election and we will fight for the presidency," said Akbar Tanjung, spelling out his priorities for a new government.

Golkar, founded by former dictator Suharto, had 20.83 percent of the votes compared to 19.85 percent for Megawati's Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P).

Some 85.7 million votes had been counted out of a potential electorate of 147 million.

A confident Tanjung said most of the votes still to be tallied from the April 5 poll are from outlying regions where his party is strongest.

"We are already number one," he declared, forecasting that Golkar would win 140-150 seats in the new 550-seat parliament compared to its current 120 in a smaller house.

Support for Megawati's party has slumped from the 34 percent it won in 1999. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Massive blackout hits Singapore

SINGAPORE—Singapore suffered its first major power failure in more than 10 years overnight with 80,000 households going without electricity for an hour, utilities officials said Wednesday. Utilities firm Singapore Power said the outage was caused by a "cable installation equipment fault" at its Choa Chu Kang substation. The fault triggered the station's protection safety device, resulting in a total shutdown of the transformers. Large areas in the city-state's northwest sector were blacked out between 11:30 p.m. on Tuesday and 12:30 a.m. Wednesday, affecting 80,000 households, a Singapore Power spokesperson said. The telephone lines of the power firm and local newspapers were flooded with calls from frantic Singaporeans not used to having their evenings interrupted with such an outage. *AFP*

Demand to antiterror gear up

SUBANG, Malaysia—The demand for antiterrorism equipment by security forces worldwide has risen sharply since the attacks on the United States, defense officials said at a major international arms show here Wednesday. Arms manufacturers from the US, Britain, South Africa and France are showcasing their state-of-the-art equipment, from spy planes and surveillance cameras to battle tanks, at the biennial Defense Services Asia exhibition. Malaysia's special forces commander Ahmad Rodi Zakaria said many countries, including Malaysia, now treated counterterrorism as a priority and were equipping their security forces with surveillance and intelligence-gathering gadgets. *AFP*

South Africans vote for new gov't

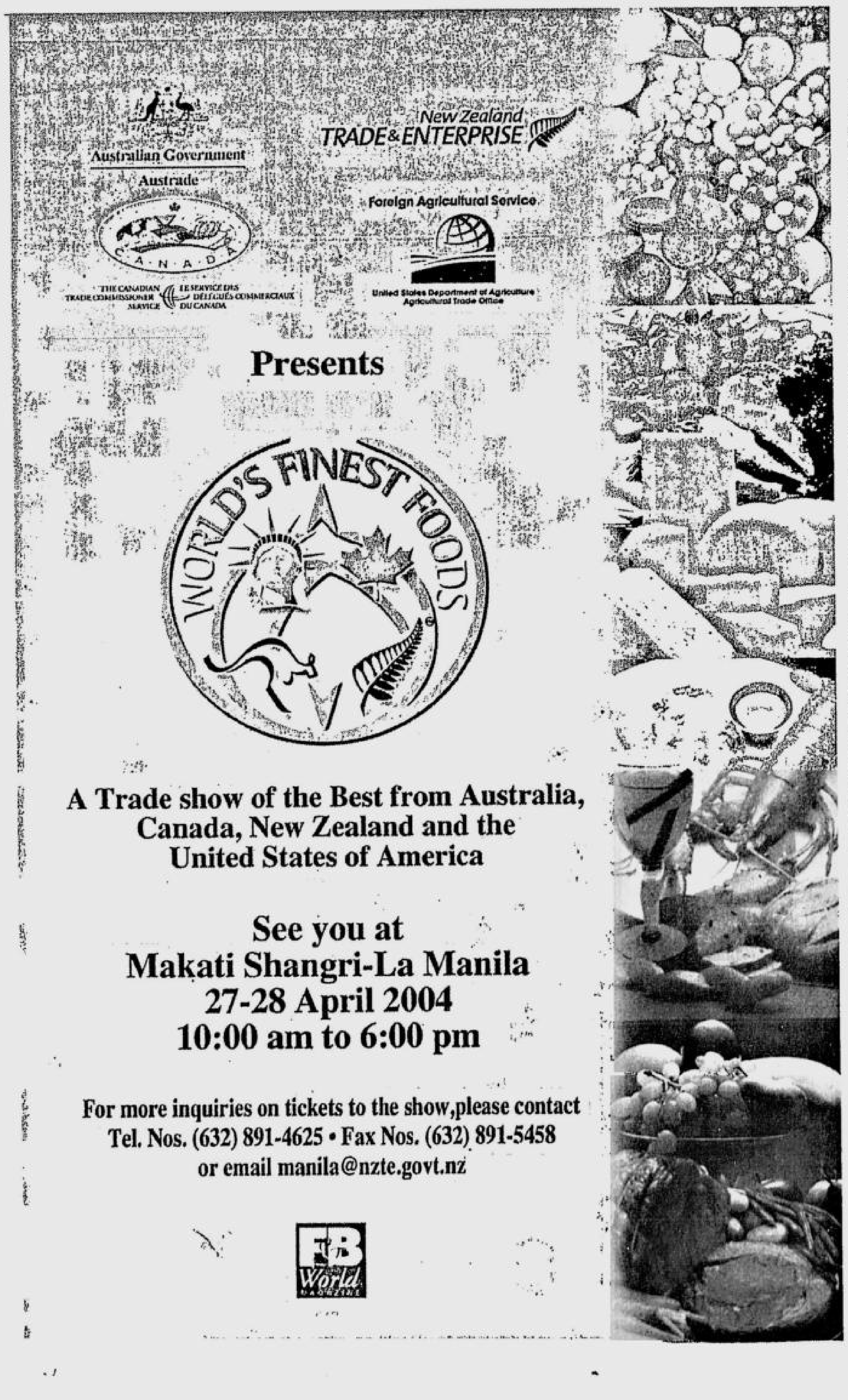
JOHANNESBURG—South Africans of all races voted Wednesday for a new government for the third time in a decade with the party credited with ending apartheid assured of another sweeping victory. Braving an early morning chill, voters lined up from as early as 3 a.m. to cast their ballots for a new national parliament and provincial assemblies. President Thabo Mbeki was one of the first to vote when polls opened four hours later. "The big day has come," he said, relaxed and smiling at a booth in a park in the capital, Pretoria. "It is now time for the people to speak. I hope that all the millions who have registered will come out today to vote." While the outcome is certain, political leaders worry that the thrill of democracy is waning 10 years after South Africa's first all-race vote ended close to half a century of oppressive white minority rule. *AP*

Bashir faces terrorism probe

JAKARTA—Authorities have enough evidence and witnesses for "further legal moves" against the alleged spiritual leader of the Jemaah Islamiyah terror network, Indonesia's police chief said on Wednesday. The comments by Gen. Da'i Bachtiar were the clearest sign yet that Indonesian cleric Abu Bakar Bashir may not be released from prison as scheduled this month. Bashir is doing time for minor immigration offenses after the Supreme Court cleared him of earlier treason and terrorism charges. He is due to be released on April 30. The United States and Australia have urged Indonesia not to release him, saying Bashir is a key leader of the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah terror network, blamed for a series of lethal attacks including the October 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people. *AP*

China offers free AIDS tests

BEIJING—China on Wednesday began offering free AIDS tests to anyone who wants one and free treatment for infected people who can't afford it, amid growing official urgency about stopping the spread of the virus. China says 840,000 of its people are HIV-positive and 80,000 have full-blown AIDS. But the UN AIDS agency says the number of infected people in China could rise to 10 million by 2020 without more aggressive prevention efforts. The plan for free AIDS testing was reported by state media, while the health ministry announced plans for free medication and treatment on its Web site. *AP*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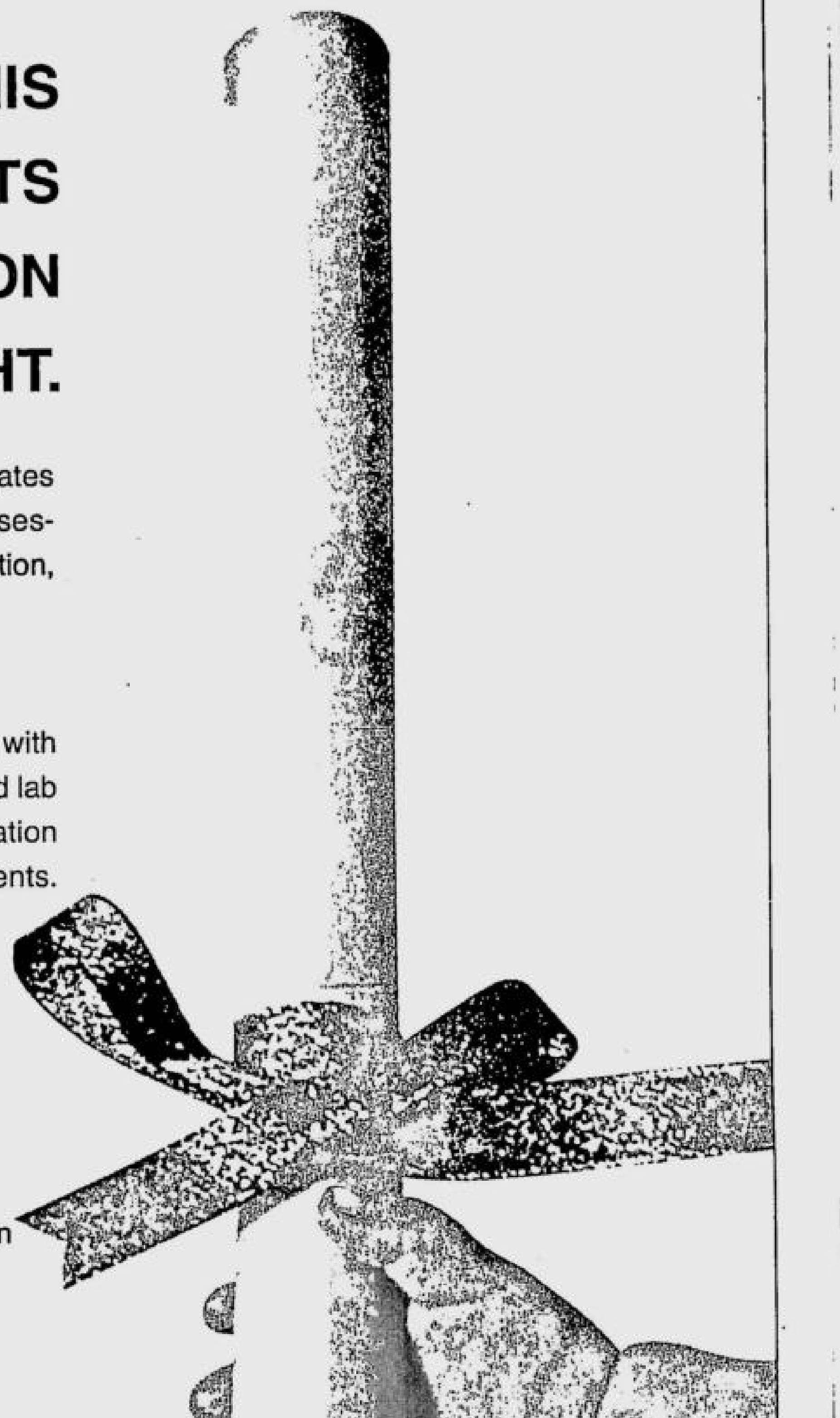

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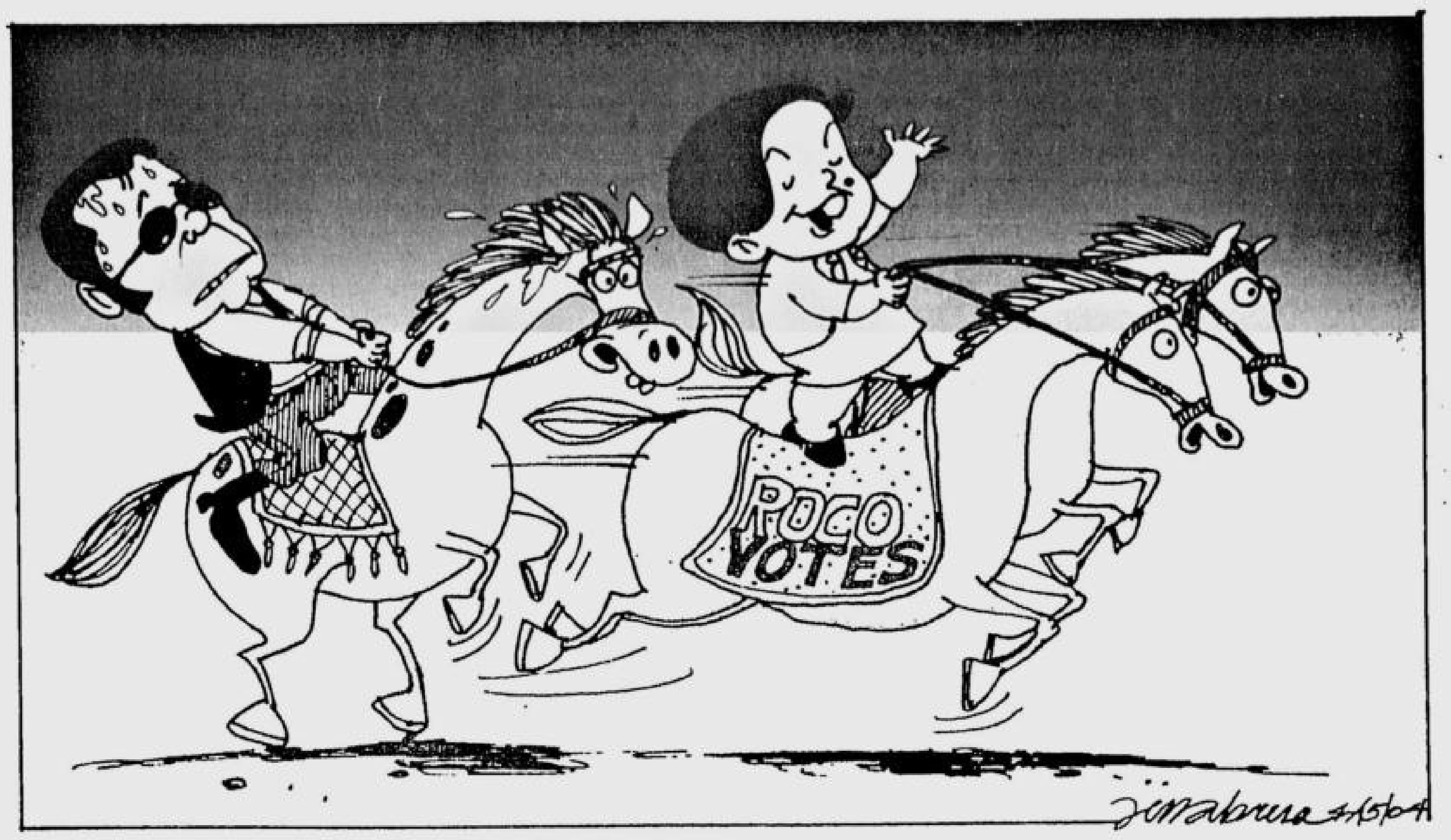

EDITORIALS

Wind…

THE COMMENTS aired by three analysts on Raul Roco's announcement that he is pulling out of the campaign to seek medical treatment in the United States will indicate to the attentive observer that we remain caught in the vise of traditional politics. As reported in the INQUIRER, the analysts went the way of the pollsters: that Roco's physical absence—albeit temporary, as he claims—will mean a boost for the two contenders that surveys have declared at the top of the heap, with more potential votes predicted for President Macapagal-Arroyo than her primary rival, Fernando Poe Jr. That is to say, that those who would otherwise vote for Roco will, because of his so-called "de facto withdrawal" from the presidential race, be forced to turn their attention to, and make their choice between, the decreed top two, with the odds favoring the incumbent.

How pat, how windy, that sounds. (Here, for example, is part of Joel Rocamora's unblushing pronouncement: "For all intents and purposes, it has been a question of Gloria versus FPJ.") But then, as the *de cajon* analysis shows, this is the sticks, where voters are presumed to be as a herd blindly following—what? an instinct? a perceived signal? a trend?

Nowhere was it noted by the analysts (whose partisanship, at any rate, poses an interesting question) that Roco's presumed withdrawal would represent for his constituency the disappearance of what he avowedly stands for: an "enabling leadership" that will guarantee "honest government, opportunity for all and special privileges for none, peace, productivity and prosperity, and education and environment for sustainable development." Absent that, why should it necessarily follow that this same constituency would now hop on the bandwagon of the President who likes to boast of the "down payment" she has made "for change" and who now demands the mandate to "pay full installments," or, if not her, the high school drop-out whose idea of leadership is hogging the spotlight and brooking no scene-stealers?

This mode of analysis presumes that, all claims to the contrary notwithstanding, Philippine elections cannot be anything more than horse races where gamblers place their bets on the touted winner. Consider what the conventional wisdom has become: that any vote cast for a candidate other than the decreed top two will be a "wasted" vote. Consider, also, the President's arrogant stance of agreeing to a debate, but only with Poe. (Here is a startling statement by her when she met over dinner with INQUIRER executives, editors and reporters: Why will I debate with those who will lose? Or words to that effect.)

By their comments, the analysts are saying that issues are not and will not be a factor in the May elections, that votes will go this way or that depending on poll statistics, that this just is the nature of the beast.

It's an insult to thoughtful voters who, faced with the task of choosing the one who will lead them, may in fact choose not to choose.

…And words

WHAT thoughts must have run through the minds of Raul Roco's young volunteers, who appeared as though hit by a thunderbolt when he announced that he was leaving. It's a tribute to their conviction that, despite the admission of bewilderment and of shock, they declared the intention to continue the "uphill" climb. (But this quality of will, this refusal to concede defeat, should be a given. Unless they are only biologically young.)

Roco has made much of his connection with the youth (a connection that Miriam Defensor-Santiago also claimed in the not too distant past, before she crumbled and embraced the perverse delights of realpolitik), and this is what will serve as the albatross slung from his neck if he makes good the "de facto withdrawal" and actually turns tail. This is the man who said that he was dedicating his campaign to "the youth and the poor." That if change was to start, "we must stop thinking that it's the taipans and money that will determine elections." That "whoever is supported by the young will eventually win the battle."

This is the same man who said Ms Macapagal was unelectable. "From where we sit," he once said, faintly grinning, "the only way she can win is if Fernando Poe Jr. and Raul Roco are out."

Just words? They better not be. But now Roco is saying that, despite all speculations, he is not quitting the race. He better not, or he's truly done for.

Of haves and have-nots

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"THERE are only two families in the world, my grandmother used to say," Miguel de Cervantes, author of "Don Quijote" would often recall. "The haves and the have-nots."

Our have-nots lack, among other things, adequate health care. *Ang mabuting pangangatawan ay maiging kayamanan,* the old proverb says. "Health is wealth." But a country that produced two of the world's 10 most corrupt leaders never fully funded its public health system.

The Philippines spends $167 per capita (purchasing power parity) for health, notes the United Nations' Human Development Report. Malaysia, in contrast, allocates $310.

The results are inevitable. Here, health workers attend more than half of births (56 percent), almost at par with Indonesia's 57 percent. But Vietnam has 70 percent; Thailand 85.

Between 50 and 79 percent of Filipinos have "sustainable access to affordable essential drugs," but 95 percent of Thais do.

These unmet health needs triggered a proliferation of "fire brigades" over the last 30 years. No less than 398 "medical/surgical/dental missions" were clocked, in the year 2000, by the Department of Health.

How effective are these two-to-three days bursts of health care for a population, where 36 out of every 100, live below the poverty line? Find out, the DOH requested the Center for Economic Policy and Research.

Now, the University of the Philippines quarterly, Public Policy, has published the CEPR findings by Juan Pablo Nañagas, Oscar Picazo, Bienvenido Alano and Emelina Almario. Among other things, they report:

In general, these missions reach out to the poor. Those who queue up are often laborers, farmers, tricycle or jeepney drivers. Between 31 and 35 years old, many have gone through high school. Size of families: 6 to 10 members.

"Some are so poor, they're dependent on other relatives," the report notes. Most earn well below the poverty line. Crowded homes explain their proneness to infectious diseases.

Geographical coverage, however, is skewed, leaving health needs unmet in areas that need services more. Most of the missions were clustered in more accessible Central Luzon (111) and Cagayan Valley (95). Relatively free of insurgency, Northern and Southern Mindanao followed with 32 and 29.

"Far-flung and poor areas such as the Cordillera Autonomous Region (8), Eastern Visayas (5) and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (3) do not seem to attract as many missions," the report states. "(This imbalance persists) despite these missions' stated objective of reaching out to underserved areas."

Demands of the ailing outstripped services these sporadic missions could provide. The study reveals that 26 managed not to turn away anybody. But 38 missions were unable to accommodate all who came.

"Unserved patients appear to occur whether or not the mission is small, medium or large," the study says. "Unserved patients ranged from 20 to 620 per mission."

The untreated were referred to other missions. Some provided substitutes: medicines, cash or other help. Wait for the next mission, others were told.

Rushed, doctors see sometimes 100 patients, of ages ranging from 13 to 75 years. On average, they examined 47. Nurses could handle as many as 59 each. On average, they served 40.

Concern has risen over quality of services. The rush results in "depersonalized consultation and treatment." Currently, no set standards cover this area. Abbreviated missions make follow-up problematic. About 64 percent didn't get post-mission care.

Some 64 percent reported *bumuti ang kalusugan* or improved general health. *Nakatulong sa amin* was the less specific reaction of almost 9 percent to preventive/promotive health aspects. But "a disturbing 17.8 percent had no response to the impact of the missions…"

Degree of local participation varies. It pivots around how organized the mission is. The better organized the mission, the more helpful local partners are. And vice versa…

"Bulagoanon in Masinloc, Zambales, and Mintal in Davao City provide good practices in partner helpfulness. Their experiences need to be documented for wider sharing."

Health workers credit missions with: (a) reduced epidemic threats after calamities; (b) providing medical specialists not generally available; (c) pinpointing early symptoms; and (d) enhanced local medical knowledge.

"Missions do have a role to play, " the report concludes, but "they also engender negative ripple effects that may damage efforts by the DOH and local governments to achieve sustainable health services."

The most urgent policy need is how to strategically focus the valuable work of missions, mostly mounted by citizens in the face of official default. A review would enable missions, in the future, to complement the work of the DOH and local governments. They would not "substitute for them, or worse, become a parallel health delivery system."

The report submits a package of 10 proposals—from guidelines, to politics and monitoring—as a basis for reform.

But disease waits for no man. Disease patterns are changing. In what Harvard University and the World Health Organization call an "epidemiological transition," new diseases emerge in the rich countries: heart disease, obesity, strokes.

"Obsolete" diseases—TB, measles, dengue, infant malnutrition—continue to plague poorer nations, like ours, even as the new diseases emerge.

We must cope "simultaneously with problems the West tackled sequentially," the Asian Development Bank notes. "Emerging Asia cannot afford this luxury."

* * *

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Ripples

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

WHEN I came home last weekend, the first messages I got on my cell phone had to do with Raul Roco quitting the presidential race. Friends were asking me if it was true Roco was dropping out. I replied that I hadn't been following the elections, I had been gone and for a week at least had far more interesting things to think about. When you look at what's happening in the world (I went to an EU-Japan-Asia conference that drew editors and senior reporters from EU, Japan and North and Southeast Asia, which dwelt on the astonishing surge of China over the last few years), our electoral concerns take on the aspect of a tempest in a teacup. I felt tossed in a teacup when I came back.

I was as surprised as everyone last Tuesday when Roco announced he was going to the United States for medical treatment with less than a month left in the campaign. Roco has always kept his cards close to his chest, often to the dismay of his lieutenants, who have to deal with the effects of his play. This one, however, appears to have been talked about at length. Or so his lieutenants assured me when I called them up Tuesday morning. The Alliance of Hope standard-bearer was in pain and in the throes of an affliction that could debilitate him for life if not treated immediately. He wasn't pulling out of the race, they said, he was just taking a temporary leave from the campaign. He would be back as soon as he was able.

They couldn't say when exactly.

I can understand how his followers, particularly the Aksyon youth, would be in shock. All day Tuesday, I got calls and text messages from friends who expressed various reactions. One said he felt abandoned. Another wondered if Roco shouldn't just have taken pain killers and left after the elections. Still another said it was too fine a distinction, dropping out of the race and from campaigning during the last stretch. For all practical purposes, he said, Roco was out.

Well, it's true. Roco's lieutenants' assurances notwithstanding, it won't be easy for anyone to take him as still a major part of the equation. Elections are about perception more than anything else, and Philippine elections more than any other election. It is an arena where presence and personal warmth count for everything. It's inconceivable how a campaign in this country can prosper without the candidate himself doing the campaigning. Or at least being physically visible to his followers. Roco's youth have every reason to be dismayed.

There is, of course, the off chance he could come back after a week or so and resume his campaign with renewed vigor. Roco has never gotten strong media coverage, and ironically the only time he got splashed on the front page of newspapers, huge pictures and all, and on prime time TV, was when he announced his intention to leave for the United States. Media's largely indifferent attitude toward him may owe to many things, not all of them savory, but it also owes in great part to his lack of emotional appeal. A big thing in media where human interest is often all the interest there is. Ideas make for an antiseptic environment in Philippine elections.

Last Tuesday was the first time I've seen Roco "humanized," in the sense of human interest, or given a side that can appeal to the wider public. The picture of him in the hammock in yesterday's INQUIRER was a powerful one. He's never had a story line like this before, one that makes him out as a person Filipinos can relate to. He comes back next week in a wheelchair or its equivalent, a la Apolinario Mabini, ready to pick up where he left off, he can tug at the hearts of the Filipino voter in ways he hasn't done before. The cripple come to help his country walk.

I grant that is a very off chance. But stranger things have happened in this country. People not fearing the ambitions of someone who will not draw the line at lying is chief of them.

Will Roco's exit, temporary or permanent, boost any other candidate's chances of winning? Well, the GMA camp, of course, is rejoicing from the predictions made by analysts that it strengthens GMA's hand. But that belief is based on the very superficial premise that Roco's following, being largely A and B, will naturally fall GMA's way when he's gone, or perceived to be so. That completely overlooks the fact that FPJ's following does not consist only of C and D and the fact that the bulk of Roco's followers, like Lacson's, is anti-GMA. They want Roco **because** they do not want GMA. Roco has not been very critical of FPJ, with whom he formed a covenant, along with the other presidential candidates, to oppose GMA's use of taxpayers' money to campaign. But he has been severely critical of GMA.

Clearly though, all this has turned the elections into a wild and wooly game. On a personal note, friends have been asking me whom I'll go for with Roco seemingly out of the race. My answer is that until Roco says he's quitting, I'll still vote for him. I still think he's the best candidate in this election. I believed he was the best candidate in 1998, and I believe he is the best candidate for May. As experience goes, something GMA has always claimed with little reason, his record in the Department of Education, turning it from a cesspool into the country's No. 1 department, speaks for itself. I'm scared of FPJ who can mess up the country and I'm even more scared of GMA who has messed up the country.

I don't particularly care if Roco wins or not. I've never believed in "the wasted vote." The only wasted vote as far as I'm concerned is the one you give to the candidate you do not particularly believe in only because you think other people will. I vote for the candidate I believe in, *I* win, whether he does or not.

That is still Roco for me. On leave or not, physically debilitated or not.

Bandwagon for GMA

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

JUST before Raul Roco declared his presidential candidacy a few months back, I had an exclusive interview with him at the Manila Polo Club. I asked him about his prostate operation a few years back, and he said it was nothing to worry about, his only health problems were his elevated sugar and cholesterol. I opined that the campaign would take care of them as he would get plenty of physical exercise.

With his sudden departure for the United States for medical treatment, I add my prayers to those of the entire nation that his back pains would not indicate any serious ailment, so that he could continue his public service, if not in the presidency, in another capacity.

* * *

There's an ugly rumor circulating especially in Bicol that Roco was paid P200 million to "exit gracefully" and assured that his camp would get three Cabinet positions in a new Gloria administration. I'm sure Roco's family, already distraught by his illness, would be pained by this kind of talk, which has to be treated as a preposterous and ugly rumor. I queried Speaker Jose de Venecia about it, and he denied it with a laugh. In the first place, he said, if the GMA camp had that kind of money, it would spend it on its candidates "*at panalo na sana kami* without a fight."

* * *

Roco's sudden departure from the scene is regarded as a "de facto withdrawal" from the campaign, which will enable GMA to further pull away from FPJ. This conclusion is not difficult to arrive at, especially with the disarray in the opposition and its many problems, beginning with funding. For instance, Sen. Joker Arroyo, who was vacationing in Kyoto, Japan, when the report of his fellow Bicolano's sudden departure reached him, expressed a wish for Roco's recovery, but added, "*Panalo na si* Gloria." Star columnist Teddy Benigno wrote about the beginnings of a bandwagon for GMA, while Teddy Boy Locsin, in an editorial in Today, opined that "it's all over but the shouting." He said, "And while it is said that it ain't over until the fat lady sings, we sense powerfully that the fat lady has already signed a contract to sing at the victory party of the small woman."

Even the peso rallied at the prospect of GMA gaining from Roco's withdrawal. Yesterday's trading indicated a hefty single-day gain of 33 centavos, with the peso closing at P55.75 to the dollar, its strongest finish since Jan. 27 this year, whereas it kept sinking to as low as P56.45 in the weeks when FPJ's popularity was rising two months ago.

* * *

With 26 days to go in the campaign, a bandwagon indeed has begun. Which is a natural thing in politics, since everyone wants to be with the winner. Last Tuesday, GMA tendered a luncheon for the NPC representatives and 31 of them showed up. At the moment 45 NPC lawmakers have already declared for her, and only 15 have not done so, among them the FPJ diehards such as Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero, General Santos Rep. Darlene Custodio and the Marañons of Negros Occidental (who may now be regretting having abandoned GMA).

Yesterday a big group of pro-Roco former legislators from the 8th to the 10th Congress, who had organized the Reform-Oriented Citizen's Organization (ROCO), met at the Hotel Intercontinental to assess the situation. Exactly 25 of them have already declared for GMA, 15 even before Roco's illness, and they are now working on the recalcitrant five. One of those who led the switch to GMA was former Masbate Rep. Luz Bakunawa. It seems that during the wake for Luz's son Mark, Gina de Venecia learned how hurt she felt at being unable to get an appointment with her *kumare*, the President (who was Mark's *ninang* at his wedding). Gina, her political instincts honed to sharpness, told GMA about Luz's *sama ng loob*, and GMA called her up. That re-opened the doors between them and ultimately Luz led her colleagues to her *kumare*.

* * *

On the opposition's unification efforts, I find it a bit hilarious that Sen. Panfilo Lacson, whose ratings in both the SWS and Pulse Asia surveys have hovered consistently at the bottom, should be demanding that LDP president Edgardo Angara be kicked out of the KNP, as one of his "preconditions" to coming to terms with FPJ. In the first place, FPJ owes his current status to Angara and it's his party that has provided FPJ some semblance of a machinery. It would be the height of disloyalty and lack of plain common sense if FPJ were to ditch him and this wouldn't sit well with his supporters. Moreover, Angara has had a far longer stint in politics than Lacson. Could it be that the ex-cop's reported possession of plenty of campaign funds may be getting to his head?

Analysts are one in saying that if the opposition fails to unite by next week, then all its hopes of capturing Malacañang will be dashed. As it is, with a bandwagon fast forming for GMA, even a united opposition may not succeed.

* * *

Our colleague, ace photojournalist Mandy Navasero, begins her 19th summer photo workshop on basic photography this Saturday, April 17, and it will continue every Saturday until May 29, from 2-5 p.m. Mandy, who trained at the Brooks Institute of Photographic Arts and Sciences in Sta. Barbara, California, is inviting students, interior designers, architects, housewives, hobbyists, doctors and other professionals to the workshop where they will be placed in practical working situations and provided with organized instruction materials covering important aspects of photography. All these should enable them to develop a high degree of competence and creative ability as beginners. Participants should have their own 35 mm camera with interchangeable lenses or digital cameras. They will present their work in a photo exhibit-cum-graduation. For further details call 899-1767 and 896-3208.

Wind, sand and stars and Saint-Ex

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THEY found them, they found them at last.

The remains of the plane piloted by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, author of the beloved "The Little Prince," have been found almost 60 years after his disappearance, French officials announced last week. The mystery has been solved, but more than that, there is now closure in the fascinating life of this remarkable Frenchman, this wartime pilot, aristocrat, romantic, adventurer, writer.

Saint-Ex's life ended when he was only 44. Ah, but he lives on.

I pulled out from the shelf two of his books, "The Little Prince" and "Wind, Sand and Stars" (French title: "Terre des Hommes"). The former sure is a classic which millions of readers know by heart, but "Wind, Sand and Stars" is my all-time favorite because it is Saint-Ex speaking directly, wondrously. (My yellowed copy has many pen markings on it, proof that I read and reread it a long time ago.)

"Wind, Sand and Stars" is a symphony, a meditation on life, spiced with true-to-life stories which are not the chicken-soup variety. Saint-Ex writes about his flights and travels to fascinating places in the sky and on land as well.

The sky is not simply a vast and empty space, it is a place where things happen to oneself and within oneself. The deserts and the fields aren't simply there below to view from the air, they are, many times for Saint-Ex, there to crash-land on, and there meet danger and beauty alone and know for the first time strange and wonderful people.

Of his crash-landing in Spanish Africa he wrote: "But by the grace of the aeroplane I have known a more extraordinary experience than this, and have been made to ponder with even more bewilderment the fact that this earth that is our home is yet in truth a wandering star…I lingered there, startled by this silence that never had been broken. The first star began to shine, and I said to myself, that this pure surface had laid here thousands of years in sight only of the stars."

The desert crash site is in fact the setting of the meeting of an aviator and the Little Prince, the intrastellar boy who reveals much about himself and the planet where he came from. Well, their conversation in the Sahara has become one of Planet Earth's bestsellers. Published in 1943, "The Little Prince" has been translated into more than 100 languages (including Filipino).

The Agence France Presse news story said pieces of the famous writer and aviator's Lockheed Lightning P38 aircraft, which vanished on July 31, 1944 during a wartime mission, were found off the coast of Marseille. The discovery, the news item said, was a galvanizing moment for France which had long speculated about the fate of Saint-Ex whose life and books have made him a French icon.

Born in 1900, Saint-Ex joined the French Air Force in 1921. He flew in Morocco and France, and after a brief demobilization, returned to North Africa as a member of the Air Mail Service. He later acted as a director of the Argentine Air Mail Service until he returned to Paris in 1931 and published "Vol Nuit" (Night Flight), the book that established his literary fame.

Saint-Ex tried to break the record from Paris to Saigon but crashed in the African desert and nearly succumbed to thirst. This is one of his stories in "Wind, Sand and Stars."

"I should never have believed that man was truly the prisoner of the springs and the freshets. We take it for granted that a man is able to stride straight out into the world. We believe that man is free. We never see the cord that binds him to wells and fountains, that umbilical cord by which he is tied to the womb of the world."

Saint-Ex continued to fly during World War II and when France fell, he fled to the United States where he wrote three books, among them, "The Little Prince." He flew again in 1943, as a reconnaissance pilot for the US forces. On one of his flights, Saint-Ex vanished, probably shot down by the Germans. The weather was good and he had just flown out of the French island of Corsica to photograph parts of southern France in preparation of the Allied landings.

Despite his posthumous fame, Saint-Ex's fate remained unknown for a long time, until 2000 when a professional French diver found the remains of a P38 plane off Marseille. Two years earlier a fisherman found in that area a bracelet with the words "Saint-Ex" inscribed on it.

Saint-Ex's stories in "Wind, Sand and Stars" are mostly about the challenge of the elements. He had battled a tornado in the Andes and crashed in the Libyan desert. He had flown mail across the Sahara and played Scarlet Pimpernel during the Spanish Civil War. He found ecstasy in danger, in breaking bread with peasants, Arab shepherds and bedouins, in gazing at the sky with only sand for a pillow.

Through flying, Saint-Ex discovered himself and this planet. "Even the simple shepherd modestly watching his sheep under the stars would discover, once he understood the part he was playing, that he was something more than a servant, was a sentinel. And each sentinel among men is responsible for the whole of the empire."

Bookstores offer many new inspirational books, but nothing has captured my heart more than this old little book. Life is an adventure, a challenge, a giving of oneself for a purpose. Saint-Ex's written works were the fruits of his zeal and zest.

We are all stardust, Saint-Ex seems to say. And he ends his awesome book with "Only the Spirit, if it breathes upon the clay, can create Man."

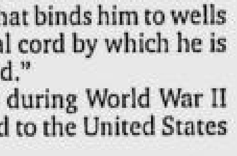
With sweet longing "The Little Prince" ends: "Send me word that he has come back."

It's Eastertide. Find time to read and feed your soul.

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Running scared



THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

ON HIS last day as a member of the Cabinet, I overheard Manuel "Mar" Roxas II dispense this pearl of electoral wisdom: If, as you go around shaking hands during the campaign, you ask a voter, "Will you vote for me?" and the voter gives a curt answer, say, "Sure," or, "Yeah." It means you have to come back and court that voter some more. Only the voters who give longer, enthusiastic replies, such as, "Of course! And we will win! Leave it to me!" can be considered safely in your camp.

My mother, recounting prewar politics, remembers that her grandfather, Eusebio Orense of Batangas, even after 40 years of electoral success, still campaigned door-to-door.

Recently Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. wrote to columnist Emil Jurado pointing out that he wasn't taking anything for granted in his bid for reelection: "Don't listen to the halfwit who told you that the three of us [Mayor Binay, Nestor Mercado and Locsin] are sitting pretty. We are on our feet and getting darker and darker by the day because Jojo [Binay] keeps hammering in our ears Ninoy's advice to politicians: 'Until you are proclaimed the winner, you should be running scared.' In politics, never take anything for granted." One wonders why it took so long to put the tireless Binay in charge of the Poe campaign.

You have to be running scared until the vary last minute of the very last hour of the very last day of the campaign. It is the lack of this "fear factor" that has handicapped the Roco and Poe campaigns. Last December, when Raul Roco was still riding high in the surveys, and yet seemed strangely silent and even complacent, I asked one of his supporters why it seemed Roco wasn't running scared. Ominously, the supporter couldn't give a clear answer, and in the end admitted it really did seem his candidate wasn't running scar[illegible] was as if the Roco campaign was torn between trying to put together, somehow, a coalition of traditional politicians (hoping against hope) and gambling everything on a campaign based solely on the enthusiasm of his youthful supporters. In the end, Roco achieved neither, failing to get a critical mass of political operators or blaze a brave trail with a youthful guerrilla campaign.

Just as Roco started his campaign on the wrong foot by having a proclamation rally in which the youth and young professionals were conspicuously absent from the stage, Fernando Poe Jr. got his campaign off to a bad start by failing to unify the opposition—when he was touting himself as the unifying candidate. It has been downhill ever since. Personally, I believe the efforts to derail his candidacy by questioning his citizenship only affected his upper-class supporters and not his mass base. What has eroded his popularity is a combination of Poe's weakness at the hustings and disgust over the colossal intrigue among his political backers. In other words, what did Poe's candidacy more harm was his refusal to debate the President and the unpopularity (among his supporters) of some of the more prominent figures in his campaign. They seemed far more interested in dividing up future spoils than in actually achieving victory. It should have been win now, fight among each other later.

Neither of the two leading opponents of the President, then, were perceived to be running scared. In contrast, the start of the President's campaign was saddled by the problem of many of her own people being terrified of the opposition. The supposed certainty of a Poe victory cast such a shadow over the Palace that many were under the impression the President's people were more interested in jumping ship than campaigning for six more years. This was actually beneficial to the President's campaign because it rid her of the less reliable: the more opportunistic among them simply jumped ship and burned their bridges; others, such as the head of a cultural agency of the government, sent discreet feelers to kingpins of the opposition in the hope of keeping their jobs under a new dispensation.

The President herself set the tone by running scared and putting her organizational gifts to good use. Her first rally in Pampanga set the tone, and the rest of the campaign was devoted to turning the tables on her opponents by seizing the initiative on the campaign trail. Not the most charismatic of public speakers, the President dispensed with the usual speeches and decided on a variation of the "teach-ins" of the 1970s: small, intimate, discussions held in the provinces with her running mate as moderator showed her in her best light and set her apart from her opponents, for example.

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Unmaking a rhyme

YOUNG BLOOD

Mia Fuentes

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

WHEN we were kids my friends and I would try to liven up lazy afternoons by playing all kinds of games. Games like Marco Polo, garter, jumping rope and jackstones were among our favorites.

Sometimes, when we really wanted some serious fun, we'd sing this special song with matching dance. Imagine little girls forming a circle, holding one another's hands while another girl dances in the middle of the circle, all the while chanting, "*Sasara ang bulaklak, dadaan ang reyna, pakembot-kembot pa*..." Corny as it may sound now, during that time doing the whole routine was enough to give us an adrenalin rush.

These days, which are so full of noise and conflict, it's refreshing to reminisce and remember a time so simple and pure. I even think the exercise is necessary. Everyone needs to have some great childhood memories to look back to and to be recharged.

Fast forward to 2004. I was watching the OPM segment of the Myx channel the other day, and I was shocked to hear the exact same song from my childhood. This time it was being sung in chorus by a bunch of skimpily dressed girls, all smiling and dancing provocatively—a far cry from the innocent little girls singing the song, laughing and playing in my memory. Of course, they would be different because, as I learned later, these were the Viva Hot Babes doing the routine now, not a bunch of innocent little girls (although some of them claim to still be "virgins"). Their voices alone gave the lyrics a totally new meaning and it all seemed so dirty. It didn't take long for me to realize that they had corrupted our song.

Call me "OA," but I cannot look back to that childhood memory fondly anymore because these girls just squeezed-out every ounce of purity it had.

What's worse is that no one seems to have noticed it. Everyone seems to be laughing about it, and has become either too blind or too deaf to realize that this is no joke. It may even seem "*baduy*" to think about, but in reality we are not only being robbed of our childhood song and everything that is pure and good that it stands for, but we are also denying the children of today and the children of tomorrow their chance to enjoy their innocence. As I watch young kids today singing this song, little girls trying to copy the provocative dance moves of the Viva Hot Babes and Sexbomb Dancers, wearing tummy-baring tops, I can't help but think that something is wrong, what with so many little girls aspiring to become "*artistas*."

I still remember a time when kids aspired to become doctors, lawyers, teachers, nurses, even priests. And somehow, those times seemed much more reassuring.

It's not entirely the Viva Hot Babes' fault. I think we all share the blame. Vigilance is needed to keep the media and their messages in check so that we do not get carried away by Western liberalism and accept everything as the new and modern way. I think we must put value on ourselves as we are—prudes to some other cultures maybe, but prudent in our own opinion. After all, we have a responsibility to protect our own values and look after each other. We cannot foolishly think that our actions do not affect others. Just look at the sorry state of our nation now.

Mia Fuentes, 20, is a fourth year Integrated Marketing Communications major at the University of Asia and the Pacific.

Another day in the city

Ma. Rona Po

IF I could afford not to be very practical, I would not consider living in Metro Manila. I would not even set foot on this so-called capital. Ever.

Sure, there's no 20-story building in the place I call home. There are no malls where one can kill time window shopping or put a hole in your pocket by impulsive shopping. People are so ordinary they can't help but stare at anyone who wears heavy makeup or skimpy clothes. And there is no night life to speak of. Yes, my place is as boring as watching nothing in particular.

But there is no traffic. We don't take jeepneys to get anywhere, we ride pedicabs. And, unless those men in orange T-shirts standing in the middle of the intersection complicates the flow of these vehicles, you won't find yourself stuck in the same spot for 30 seconds.

We don't have pollution. We can breathe the air without fear of getting sick. We can stay out the whole day without our faces getting dirty—or at least not as much as when one sits in a Metro Manila jeepney for 10 minutes.

Ugly crimes don't happen in my hometown. We get more scared watching the late afternoon news on television than staying alone in the house for a day. And we don't suffer water shortages or electricity power losses.

Back in the place I called home, we do not simply survive, we enjoy life.

More importantly, children grow up living the principles they were taught. We don't run into a lot of temptations and get overcome by them. We are surrounded by older generations who are living in a world of their own and keep inviting us to join them. And we have neighbors who don't succumb easily to envy.

Back in the place I call home, we don't question moral principles or doubt that they can be put to practice. Any deviation from the principles we have imbibed is met with extreme disapproval.

But when one grows up, one has to be practical. And when I left my hometown to study elsewhere, I also left some of my principles behind. And it all started from there. If I want to satiate my human wants, I have to be practical.

Yes, Manila showed me an open door. To its traffic. To its pollution. To its war zone where moral people battle practical individuals.

Don't get me wrong. I don't take sides, because I carry within me aspects of both. I have resisted, argued and wrestled against being practical until I could not fight it anymore. But one cannot be pragmatic without some moral damage. There's always an opportunity cost. Or maybe, I just wasn't so smart.

But why am I bothered by all these thoughts? Had I decided to stay home, I would not have understood why certain things happen in the big city. Why, for instance, there is a huge gap between the rich and the poor. Why little kids have to risk their lives in the streets trying to sell "*basahan*" and college students spend hundreds of pesos on cell cards. And most heartbreaking of all, why people don't do anything about the situation. If I were back in the place I call home, I would have sworn a long time ago to do something about it.

But I know many things are easier said than done. And it's easy to say something when you aren't personally involved. So whenever I see something ugly as I go about my way in the metropolis, I have learned to close my eyes. But I cannot go on shutting out ugly truths of my vision. Not forever.

Why am I writing this? Because I saw a kid hawking some "*basahan*" almost get run over by a jeepney that was driven by someone who was mad over the heavy traffic. And nobody reacted.

I certainly didn't. For now, it seems easy to just open your eyes and watch the world go to ruin. But deep inside, it hurts.

Ma. Rona Po, 23, is a trader at Procter and Gamble Asia.

Bandwagon for GMA

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

JUST before Raul Roco declared his presidential candidacy a few months back, I had an exclusive interview with him at the Manila Polo Club. I asked him about his prostate operation a few years back, and he said it was nothing to worry about, his only health problems were his elevated sugar and cholesterol. I opined that the campaign would take care of them as he would get plenty of physical exercise.

With his sudden departure for the United States for medical treatment, I add my prayers to those of the entire nation that his back pains would not indicate any serious ailment, so that he could continue his public service, if not in the presidency, in another capacity.

* * *

There's an ugly rumor circulating especially in Bicol that Roco was paid P200 million to "exit gracefully" and assured that his camp would get three Cabinet positions in a new Gloria administration. I'm sure Roco's family, already distraught by his illness, would be pained by this kind of talk, which has to be treated as a preposterous and ugly rumor. I queried Speaker Jose de Venecia about it, and he denied it with a laugh. In the first place, he said, if the GMA camp had that kind of money, it would spend it on its candidates "*at panalo na sana kami* without a fight."

* * *

Roco's sudden departure from the scene is regarded as a "de facto withdrawal" from the campaign, which will enable GMA to further pull away from FPJ. This conclusion is not difficult to arrive at, especially with the disarray in the opposition and its many problems, beginning with funding. For instance, Sen. Joker Arroyo, who was vacationing in Kyoto, Japan, when the report of his fellow Bicolano's sudden departure reached him, expressed a wish for Roco's recovery, but added, "*Panalo na si* Gloria." Star columnist Teddy Benigno wrote about the beginnings of a bandwagon for GMA, while Teddy Boy Locsin, in an editorial in Today, opined that "it's all over but the shouting." He said, "And while it is said that it ain't over until the fat lady sings, we sense powerfully that the fat lady has already signed a contract to sing at the victory party of the small woman."

Even the peso rallied at the prospect of GMA gaining from Roco's withdrawal. Yesterday's trading indicated a hefty single-day gain of 33 centavos, with the peso closing at P55.75 to the dollar, its strongest finish since Jan. 27 this year, whereas it kept sinking to as low as P56.45 in the weeks when FPJ's popularity was rising two months ago.

* * *

With 26 days to go in the campaign, a bandwagon indeed has begun. Which is a natural thing in politics, since everyone wants to be with the winner. Last Tuesday, GMA tendered a luncheon for the NPC representatives and 31 of them showed up. At the moment 45 NPC lawmakers have already declared for her, and only 15 have not done so, among them the FPJ diehards such as Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero, General Santos Rep. Darlene Custodio and the Marañons of Negros Occidental (who may now be regretting having abandoned GMA).

Yesterday a big group of pro-Roco former legislators from the 8th to the 10th Congress, who had organized the Reform-Oriented Citizen's Organization (ROCO), met at the Hotel Intercontinental to assess the situation. Exactly 25 of them have already declared for GMA, 15 even before Roco's illness, and they are now working on the recalcitrant five. One of those who led the switch to GMA was former Masbate Rep. Luz Bakunawa. It seems that during the wake for Luz's son Mark, Gina de Venecia learned how hurt she felt at being unable to get an appointment with her *kumare*, the President (who was Mark's *ninang* at his wedding). Gina, her political instincts honed to sharpness, told GMA about Luz's *sama ng loob*, and GMA called her up. That re-opened the doors between them and ultimately Luz led her colleagues to her *kumare*.

* * *

On the opposition's unification efforts, I find it a bit hilarious that Sen. Panfilo Lacson, whose ratings in both the SWS and Pulse Asia surveys have hovered consistently at the bottom, should be demanding that LDP president Edgardo Angara be kicked out of the KNP, as one of his "preconditions" to coming to terms with FPJ. In the first place, FPJ owes his current status to Angara and it's his party that has provided FPJ some semblance of a machinery. It would be the height of disloyalty and lack of plain common sense if FPJ were to ditch him and this wouldn't sit well with his supporters. Moreover, Angara has had a far longer stint in politics than Lacson. Could it be that the ex-cop's reported possession of plenty of campaign funds may be getting to his head?

Analysts are one in saying that if the opposition fails to unite by next week, then all its hopes of capturing Malacañang will be dashed. As it is, with a bandwagon fast forming for GMA, even a united opposition may not succeed.

* * *

Our colleague, ace photojournalist Mandy Navasero, begins her 19th summer photo workshop on basic photography this Saturday, April 17, and it will continue every Saturday until May 29, from 2-5 p.m. Mandy, who trained at the Brooks Institute of Photographic Arts and Sciences in Sta. Barbara, California, is inviting students, interior designers, architects, housewives, hobbyists, doctors and other professionals to the workshop where they will be placed in practical working situations and provided with organized instruction materials covering important aspects of photography. All these should enable them to develop a high degree of competence and creative ability as beginners. Participants should have their own 35 mm camera with interchangeable lenses or digital cameras. They will present their work in a photo exhibit-cum-graduation. For further details call 899-1767 and 896-3208.

Wind, sand and stars and Saint-Ex

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THEY found them, they found them at last.

The remains of the plane piloted by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, author of the beloved "The Little Prince," have been found almost 60 years after his disappearance, French officials announced last week. The mystery has been solved, but more than that, there is now closure in the fascinating life of this remarkable Frenchman, this wartime pilot, aristocrat, romantic, adventurer, writer.

Saint-Ex's life ended when he was only 44. Ah, but he lives on.

I pulled out from the shelf two of his books, "The Little Prince" and "Wind, Sand and Stars" (French title: "Terre des Hommes"). The former sure is a classic which millions of readers know by heart, but "Wind, Sand and Stars" is my all-time favorite because it is Saint-Ex speaking directly, wondrously. (My yellowed copy has many pen markings on it, proof that I read and reread it a long time ago.)

"Wind, Sand and Stars" is a symphony, a meditation on life, spiced with true-to-life stories which are not the chicken-soup variety. Saint-Ex writes about his flights and travels to fascinating places in the sky and on land as well.

The sky is not simply a vast and empty space, it is a place where things happen to oneself and within oneself. The deserts and the fields aren't simply there below to view from the air, they are, many times for Saint-Ex, there to crash-land on, and there meet danger and beauty alone and know for the first time strange and wonderful people.

Of his crash-landing in Spanish Africa he wrote: "But by the grace of the aeroplane I have known a more extraordinary experience than this, and have been made to ponder with even more bewilderment the fact that this earth that is our home is yet in truth a wandering star…I lingered there, startled by this silence that never had been broken. The first star began to shine, and I said to myself, that this pure surface had laid here thousands of years in sight only of the stars."

The desert crash site is in fact the setting of the meeting of an aviator and the Little Prince, the intrastellar boy who reveals much about himself and the planet where he came from. Well, their conversation in the Sahara has become one of Planet Earth's bestsellers. Published in 1943, "The Little Prince" has been translated into more than 100 languages (including Filipino).

The Agence France Presse news story said pieces of the famous writer and aviator's Lockheed Lightning P38 aircraft, which vanished on July 31, 1944 during a wartime mission, were found off the coast of Marseille. The discovery, the news item said, was a galvanizing moment for France which had long speculated about the fate of Saint-Ex whose life and books have made him a French icon.

Born in 1900, Saint-Ex joined the French Air Force in 1921. He flew in Morocco and France, and after a brief demobilization, returned to North Africa as a member of the Air Mail Service. He later acted as a director of the Argentine Air Mail Service until he returned to Paris in 1931 and published "Vol Nuit" (Night Flight), the book that established his literary fame.

Saint-Ex tried to break the record from Paris to Saigon but crashed in the African desert and nearly succumbed to thirst. This is one of his stories in "Wind, Sand and Stars."

"I should never have believed that man was truly the prisoner of the springs and the freshets. We take it for granted that a man is able to stride straight out into the world. We believe that man is free. We never see the cord that binds him to wells and fountains, that umbilical cord by which he is tied to the womb of the world."

Saint-Ex continued to fly during World War II and when France fell, he fled to the United States where he wrote three books, among them, "The Little Prince." He flew again in 1943, as a reconnaissance pilot for the US forces. On one of his flights, Saint-Ex vanished, probably shot down by the Germans. The weather was good and he had just flown out of the French island of Corsica to photograph parts of southern France in preparation of the Allied landings.

Despite his posthumous fame, Saint-Ex's fate remained unknown for a long time, until 2000 when a professional French diver found the remains of a P38 plane off Marseille. Two years earlier a fisherman found in that area a bracelet with the words "Saint-Ex" inscribed on it.

Saint-Ex's stories in "Wind, Sand and Stars" are mostly about the challenge of the elements. He had battled a tornado in the Andes and crashed in the Libyan desert. He had flown mail across the Sahara and played Scarlet Pimpernel during the Spanish Civil War. He found ecstasy in danger, in breaking bread with peasants, Arab shepherds and bedouins, in gazing at the sky with only sand for a pillow.

Through flying, Saint-Ex discovered himself and this planet. "Even the simple shepherd modestly watching his sheep under the stars would discover, once he understood the part he was playing, that he was something more than a servant, was a sentinel. And each sentinel among men is responsible for the whole of the empire."

Bookstores offer many new inspirational books, but nothing has captured my heart more than this old little book. Life is an adventure, a challenge, a giving of oneself for a purpose. Saint-Ex's written works were the fruits of his zeal and zest.

We are all stardust, Saint-Ex seems to say. And he ends his awesome book with "Only the Spirit, if it breathes upon the clay, can create Man."

With sweet longing "The Little Prince" ends: "Send me word that he has come back."

It's Eastertide. Find time to read and feed your soul.

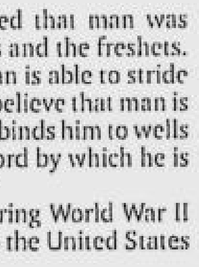
* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Running scared

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



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More importantly, children grow up living the principles they were taught. We don't run into a lot of temptations and get overcome by them. We are surrounded by older generations who are living in a world of their own and keep inviting us to join them. And we have neighbors who don't succumb easily to envy.

Back in the place I call home, we don't question moral principles or doubt that they can be put to practice. Any deviation from the principles we have imbibed is met with extreme disapproval.

But when one grows up, one has to be practical. And when I left my hometown to study elsewhere, I also left some of my principles behind. And it all started from there. If I want to satiate my human wants, I have to be practical.

Yes, Manila showed me an open door. To its traffic. To its pollution. To its war zone where moral people battle practical individuals.

Don't get me wrong. I don't take sides, because I carry within me aspects of both. I have resisted, argued and wrestled against being practical until I could not fight it anymore. But one cannot be pragmatic without some moral damage. There's always an opportunity cost. Or maybe, I just wasn't so smart.

But why am I bothered by all these thoughts? Had I decided to stay home, I would not have understood why certain things happen in the big city. Why, for instance, there is a huge gap between the rich and the poor. Why little kids have to risk their lives in the streets trying to sell "*basahan*" and college students spend hundreds of pesos on cell cards. And most heartbreaking of all, why people don't do anything about the situation. If I were back in the place I call home, I would have sworn a long time ago to do something about it.

But I know many things are easier said than done. And it's easy to say something when you aren't personally involved. So whenever I see something ugly as I go about my way in the metropolis, I have learned to close my eyes. But I cannot go on shutting out ugly truths of my vision. Not forever.

Why am I writing this? Because I saw a kid hawking some "*basahan*" almost get run over by a jeepney that was driven by someone who was mad over the heavy traffic. And nobody reacted.

I certainly didn't. For now, it seems easy to just open your eyes and watch the world go to ruin. But deep inside, it hurts.

Ma. Rona Po, 23, is a trader at Procter and Gamble Asia.

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

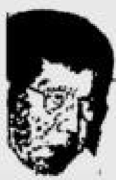
Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Senate bets favor aliens owning land

ELEKSYON 2004

SHOULD foreigners be allowed to own land and/or media companies in the country? Should the 40-percent foreign equity limit on public utilities like telecommunications, power distribution and transportation be lifted? Nineteen of the senatorial candidates want foreigners to own land, but with certain qualifications. Twelve are against. Seventeen oppose the proposal that foreigners be allowed to own media outfits in the country, while 14 are in favor.

It's a tie (15 in favor and 15 against) when it comes to the proposal to lift the foreign equity limit on utilities.

Candidates	Public utilities	Land	Media
Alvarez, Heherson Independent	Safeguarding public utilities from the control of foreign entities protects our national interest. The 40-percent equity limit must remain. If it must be raised, it should not go beyond 49 percent.	We have a responsibility to secure intergenerational equity of our patrimony, historical sites, and indigenous heritage.	We need not yield our organized skills on media in exchange for foreign investments. We must control even the subtle influences over our freedom of choice and creative expression.
Anson-Roa, Boots Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP)	The proposal can endanger public welfare. I am for maintaining status quo on the issue.	Land ownership by foreigners should be strictly regulated, taking into account the fitness and qualifications of potential buyers, as well as their moral values.	Because media have an impact on the national psyche and culture, it would be difficult for us to allow foreigners to gain-control of the media.
Barbers, Robert K-4 Coalition	This may be done to attract more foreign investments to generate employment and revenues for the government.	It may be allowed considering the inevitable effects of globalization on our economy and its logical consequence of attracting investors.	I favor it provided safeguards are in place to preserve our social, cultural and economic interests as a sovereign state. Foreign ownership may result in healthy competition, thereby improving quality and service.
Biazon, Rodolfo K-4 Coalition	No.	No.	No.
Cayetano, Pia K-4 Coalition	Considering the sensitive and vital position of public utilities in the national economy and security, this equity limit should be retained.	Under the Constitution, foreigners are not allowed to own land save in cases of hereditary succession. We should allow more instances of foreign land ownership that will benefit the economy without impairing the rights of Filipinos.	I am not opposed to allowing foreigners to partially own and manage mass media to make them more dynamic and competitive. Ultimately, this will benefit the public, which deserves no less than accurate reporting and fair commentary.
Chavez, Frank Alyansa ng Pag-asa	I'm in favor provided they are not utilities which if owned by foreigners would pose a threat to national security. We can't surrender telecoms because that could be used for espionage.	I don't want the Philippines to be gobbled up by rich nations. We'll end up one day not owning our own country. I'd rather that we extend the term of lease—either 75 years to 99 years, but not transferring titles.	If you put in a foreigner in our midst controlling powerful media, that foreigner would have a chance to shape public opinion and perception. That may not be to the interest of the country.
Coo, Olivia "Bong" Alyansa ng Pag-asa	Filipinos should maintain the majority share. If we allow foreigners to take over, what will happen to us?	I'm not for it because for all we know all our 7,107 islands would be eventually sold. And we might end up not owning the Philippines.	It should be 100-percent Filipino because how can we express ourselves if the communication channel is not ours. Let's be pro-Filipino.
Dilangalen, Didagen KNP	The nationalistic policies on public utilities must be maintained.	Land ownership must be limited to Filipinos.	The present law on media must be maintained.
Enrile, Juan Ponce KNP	I am in favor of lifting the restriction in certain utilities such as transportation and communication because the limit has to a large extent hampered foreign investment in these key areas.	I am in favor of allowing foreigners to own commercial, industrial and non-agricultural land in order to spur investments and create jobs and other economic opportunities for our people.	The restriction on foreign ownership should be lifted because the purpose for reserving control of mass media to Filipinos has been overtaken by advances in media technology.
Escudero, Sonny KNP	I'm in favor for as long as the state retains its inherent power to intervene in the public interest or when national security so dictates.	I'm in favor. But this should be limited to existing commercial and industrial lands, and conversion should no longer be permitted.	With the advent of modern technology where foreign media can penetrate our individual living rooms, limitations on ownership of media outfits have become irrelevant.
Estrada, Jinggoy KNP	Yes, to attract investors. We cannot afford big amounts of capital.	I am in favor, to attract foreign investors.	I disagree. Foreigners are good at manipulation. Only Filipinos should own media outfits in the country.
Gatmaytan, Nicanor, Jr. Alyansa ng Pag-asa	I don't believe in that. It's not yet time for us to do so.	I'm not in favor. Probably, in the future, there will be a much relaxed law, but not 100 percent.	No, because freedom of the press is enshrined in our Constitution. If we give this to foreigners, there could be suppression (of information), and people's rights will be curtailed.
Gordon, Richard K-4 Coalition	I believe in its potential to speed up the delivery of services.	I'm for it. Foreigners can't put the land in their pockets. Meanwhile, it will induce greater investment and may make our country's idle lands more productive.	I am also for foreign ownership of media. What is important is that we have news media organizations that possess the highest form of journalistic integrity.
Herrera, Ernesto KNP	No. The national patrimony clauses of the Constitution must remain.	No. The Constitution already allows foreigners to lease land in the country. That is sufficient.	No.
Hussin, Parouk K-4 Coalition	This should be done on a case-to-case basis and the barometer being the paramount interest of the public and the security of the nation.	This can be considered with limits.	Again, this can be considered subject only to condition that this should be done only if public safety, interest, and security will not be compromised.
Jaworski, Robert K-4 Coalition	I'm in favor of lifting the equity limit for foreigners. Our country should welcome more investments to uplift the economy.	I do not oppose such idea but this must be limited to foreign investors. This will be beneficial to Filipinos because foreign investments mean more job opportunities and a better economy.	It would be more productive and beneficial if there will also be foreign media companies. This may mean objective and fair reporting because nothing is at stake on their part.
Joson, Edno Alyansa ng Pag-asa	Before, I subscribed to the idea of fully privatizing public utilities. But what happened to our independent power producers? No production, and yet we're still paying for the electricity.	I'm in favor because you can't take away land from us. We can compete based on our comparative advantage with other countries. If not, we will always be lacking in foreign investments.	Yes, but there must be a common restriction: no oligopoly, no monopoly. Otherwise, we will be in the losing end. What is essential is there is freedom of competition, and of course, a Filipino component to it.
Lapid, Lito K-4 Coalition	I have to weigh very carefully the pluses and minuses of whatever decision I will make on the matter.	I always hold the belief that the Philippines belongs to no one else but Filipinos.	No absolute ownership, maybe. Giving foreigners total control of media is like giving him unlimited access to our exclusive right to our inherent domain.
Lim, Alfredo KNP	We must retain the 60-percent Filipino ownership because further reducing it will open the operation and management of our public utilities to foreign control detrimental to public interest.	Our history shows our opposition to foreign control of our soil. Any form of abdication will betray what our forefathers fought for. I dread the day when aliens live in palatial homes while Filipinos wallow in shanties.	Let's preserve 100-percent Filipino ownership and management of media in the country.
Maceda, Ernesto KNP	I will formulate my stand in the Senate.	Same answer	Same answer
Madrigal, Jamby KNP	It's enough that foreigners are granted 40-percent equity. Our local businessmen must be protected from undue foreign takeover.	It will be detrimental to Filipinos if foreigners are allowed to own land. As an agricultural country, foreigners who have the means may purchase huge tracts of land that can produce food for us.	I'm not in favor. Look at how American and Western cinema and music affect our culture. Filipinos, especially the youth, act and talk like they are from somewhere else. *Gaya gaya*. Our old values are gone.
Mauricio, Mel "Batas" Alyansa ng Pag-asa	I'm against it.	Yes, but only when it is necessary for the furtherance of their investments that would result in the inflow of capital and hiring of Filipino employees.	Absolutely not. The shaping of opinion by media should be left in the hands of Filipinos.
 **Mercado, Orly** K-4 Coalition	Ownership of fixed assets should be opened up to 100-percent foreign ownership but limited to nationals of countries with extradition treaties with us to encourage investors to put in fresh capital.	Same argument except for land that is environmentally protected. But this should not preclude having foreign investors help us protect our few remaining environmental treasures.	We need to seriously consider addressing anti-trust concerns, especially with respect to multimedia and related media convergence issues. Consumer protection issues need to be examined carefully.
Osmeña, John K-4 Coalition	Yes. Jobs for Filipinos and not ownership for factories are important.	Yes and scrap the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program as well.	Yes. Why not? Don't we watch CNN and BBC?
Padilla, Carlos Senatorial bet of Panfilo Lacson	I am not in favor. I am for the protection of the nationalist character of our economy.	As a nationalist consistent with my views, I am not in favor.	Even if these views (on foreign ownership) are not consistent with my standard-bearer, I am not in favor.
Pimentel, Aquilino, Jr. KNP	Retain limit on public utilities.	Leave to federal states to decide as tool of development.	Retain Filipino majority ownership.
Rasul-Bernardo, Amina KNP	We need to study this issue carefully to ensure that our economy benefits. However, we do need to attract foreign investors, and level the playing field.	If overseas Filipino workers can own land in the US and Asean, why can't foreigners own land here? However, let's review all our options and come up with the best position for the economy.	I have not really thought about this issue. It will have to take time to analyze the pros and cons.
Revilla, Ramon "Bong", Jr. K-4 Coalition	Definitely no.	No.	No.
Roxas,Manuel "Mar" III K-4 Coalition	My view is directed by our urgent need for capital to build our power plants, transmission lines, distribution systems, telecom infrastructure, water systems and the like.	Foreigners can't crate up the land and take it away. Allowing them to own land outright enhances our being an investment destination, thus leading to more jobs and incomes.	I oppose the 100-percent foreign ownership of media, but I will support a policy that allows partial foreign ownership. Our local media need access to capital in order to penetrate the broader global market.
Santiago, Miriam K-4 Coalition	In the search for markets, we are engaged in cut-throat competition with our neighbors. We have to swim with the tide. We can raise the equity limit, but only for certain limited periods.	This is an accepted practice in many governments. The peculiar difficulty in the Philippines is its sentimental overtones. My compromise is to set time limits for foreign land ownership.	It's terrifying to think that foreigners might act as our information gatekeepers. But the industry would be seriously hobbled by lack of capital for upgrading facilities. The solution is to allow certain exceptions.
Sonza, Jay Alyansa ng Pag-asa	If we have rights to buy properties in other countries, why restrict foreigners to do the same here?	If we are not restricted from buying land elsewhere, aliens should also be allowed to do so here. But they should be required to bring in fresh money for investments.	I don't mind allowing foreigners to own media outfits here because media, news and public affairs are universal. The danger lies in the small media outfits. But they can form consortiums.
Tatad, Francisco KNP	We have to allow the entry of foreign capital to a degree not previously allowed by the Constitution, while continuously making sure that the security of the state is never in peril.	If Filipinos are allowed to own land in another country, its nationals should be allowed to own land here. But it should be limited to land on which to build a home, a factory, a school, a church and never for speculative purposes.	Anyone can switch on any foreign channel or read any foreign publication almost anywhere. But the ban has prevented foreign capital and expertise from getting into Philippine media, which badly need them.
Yasay, Perfecto Alyansa ng Pag-asa	The state should be more concerned about whoever can provide us with the most efficient public service at the least cost to our people should be given the opportunity to provide a public utility.	Ownership of land by foreigners is not anti-Filipino. Using land for the benefit of the people is always the primary consideration. Maybe agricultural land at this time cannot be opened to foreign ownership	What are we scared about foreigners controlling media? We want to control news so that only news that is good for the Filipino should be read by Filipinos? I don't believe so. A free press is a free press for everyone.

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Woman lawyer gunned down

By Frank Cimatu and Donna Demetillo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—A lone gunman shot and killed a lawyer during rush hour on Tuesday afternoon at a busy intersection near Burnham Park here.

Police said the murder of Victoria Mangapit Sturch, 54, could be connected to a labor case or a land dispute in which her clients were involved.

Sturch, mother of INQUIRER Laoag correspondent Kira Espino, was waiting for a taxi ride on Harrison Road and Calderon Street at about 5:30 p.m. when she was attacked.

It was the second attack on Sturch since September last year. She was stabbed five times by a man in front of her house in Barangay Bakakeng Central here.

Security

A police escort was assigned to her after that attack but the security escort was pulled out in November last year after the family assessed that the threats on her life had diminished.

Sturch, who was shot at close range in the nape, died while being taken to the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center.

Police said the gunman and a companion who served as lookout fled toward the Baguio City market. Investigators recovered a shell from a .25 cal. revolver from the crime scene.

Senior Supt. Isagani Nerez, Baguio police director, said their initial investigation showed that the murder was work-related.

Nerez said they are offering P100,000 to anyone who can identify the killer.

Suspect's description

Police described the suspect as between 27 and 28 years old, fair and stands at about 5 feet and 5 inches.

Espino said her mother earlier discussed with her the possible suspects in the September attack. "She did not deserve to die this way," Espino said.

At the time of her death, Sturch was teaching law at the BCF University. Espino said her mother was preparing to retire from teaching this year and had just submitted the grades of her last batch of students for commercial law review on Monday.

Sturch's remains will be taken to her hometown in Batac, Ilocos Norte, today.

Comelec puts 3 towns in Ilocos Norte under control

LAOAG CITY—The Commission on Elections has placed three Ilocos Norte towns under its control fearing that heated political rivalry among candidates would disrupt the elections next month.

Lawyer Alipio Castillo, Ilocos Norte election supervisor, said he had sought additional Army units to control a likely intense battle in the towns of Paoay, Currimao and Nueva Era. The Comelec noted the presence of armed groups in those towns.

"We are speeding up our request for additional units so that they can take their positions in these towns. By now, they should start patrolling these areas," he said.

Castillo said some politicians are normally uncomfortable with the Comelec's decision to put their areas under control because such condition suggests an unstable peace and order situation.

"Sometimes, they take it negatively but some welcome this (intervention). They see the presence of policemen as a deterrent to potentially volatile election atmosphere," he said.

Castillo said the candidates themselves asked for additional Army soldiers and policemen in the towns before and after the elections.

Ironically, areas not under the Comelec's control have shown indications of heated political fights.

The Comelec is keeping an eye on the towns of Badoc and Bacarra as potential areas of concern due to election-related incidents early into the campaign period.

A cousin of reelectionist Badoc Mayor Thomas Torralba was gunned down last week while supporters of rival camps in Bacarra have figured in shooting incidents. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

SLOW RIDE
BOY CABRIDO/PDI PHOTO
The ride is slow but sure aboard a carabao-pulled sled across a landscape drastically changed by Mt. Pinatubo's eruption and lahar flows in Botolan, Zambales.

8 E. Visayas schools plan tuition hike

TACLOBAN CITY—At least eight colleges in Eastern Visayas will increase their tuition by at least five percent this school year.

Ciriaco Sabino, Commissioner on Higher Education regional education supervisor, told the INQUIRER that the five to 10 percent increase imposed by these schools will be imposed only on new enrollees.

"Only freshmen will be paying the tuition fee increase to be imposed by these schools," he said.

Sabino identified these schools as the St. Joseph College and College of Maasin, both in Maasin City, Southern Leyte; STI in Ormoc and in Tacloban, Leyte; West Leyte College in Ormoc; Samar College, in Catbalogan town, Samar; ABE in Tacloban and the Holy Trinity College in Alangalang town, Leyte.

Eastern Visayas hosts about 60 privately owned colleges.

Sabino said other schools can no longer increase their tuition because they were given until Feb. 28 to inform CHEd of their intention to increase their fees.

He said the eight schools were increasing their tuition in order to address the clamor of their teaching and non-teaching personnel for a wage adjustment and an improvement of their facilities.

These schools, he added, were able to satisfy basic requirements as mandated by CHEd memorandum circular No. 13 series of 1998, which requires a consultation especially with student organizations before any increases in tuition and other fees. *Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Top PNP official says NPA rebs biggest threat to peaceful polls

By Ansbert Joaquin and Allan Macatuno
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The New People's Army, which figured in 187 election-related attacks since the start of the campaign period this year, remains to be the "most serious threat" to the holding of peaceful elections on May 10, Philippine National Police officials said.

Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, PNP spokesperson, said many of these were related to the NPA's practice of collecting permit-to-campaign (PTC) fees.

Dir. Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane, PNP chief, said apart from the NPA, some cases of election-related violence will come from candidates themselves.

"Overall, the NPA poses the biggest threat to the holding of peaceful elections, but scattered cases of election-related violence will be coming from the politicians themselves," Ebdane told reporters here.

The PNP held a command conference here on Tuesday and Wednesday to fine-tune all police security preparations for the May 10 elections.

Ebdane also said the police are now employing a different tack in dealing with the NPA's collection of PTC fees from candidates who want to campaign in rebel-controlled areas.

"If there are candidates whom we know of paying PTC fees to the NPA, we inform the community of their action and expose them to the people. We leave it up to the people to decide," Ebdane told reporters.

"We discourage candidates from paying, but how can they campaign without the risk of being harassed (by the NPA)? Our solution to that problem is to encourage politicians in an area to set a common date for them to campaign so that we can set up a common security preparation for all of them," he said.

He said stopping the NPA's collection of PTC fees depends on the candidates themselves.

"We need their cooperation. But if they want to pay the PTC fee, we cannot do anything about it," he said.

Aside from the NPA, Ebdane said cases of election-related violence are also the work of politicians.

"If there is a perceived threat that will mar the holding of the (peaceful) elections, it will surely come from the candidates themselves," he said.

Pampanga media launch voter education campaign

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Two media outfits and five cable TV operators in Pampanga have begun a voters' education program, jointly starting out a show where local candidates could present their platforms on issues raised by residents.

The first episode of "Ang Plataporma Ko" was simultaneously aired at 8 p.m. Monday on Satellite Cable Network's Infomax Channel 8, dwRW-FM 95.1, Prosat's Channel 3, Sattlink's Channel 12, Datelsat's Channel 17 and on Broadcable's Channel 6 and 20.

Operating in Pampanga's capital city and major towns, these partners hope to "bring the information to roughly a million voters in the province," said Maureen Aquino, Infomax general manager.

The first episode featured three of four mayoral candidates in this city. They are former Board Member Rosve Henson, Vice Mayor Eligio Lagman and Rep. Oscar Rodriguez. Former Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo begged off, citing her "hectic schedule."

Aquino said election campaign ads were excluded from the commercials and the candidates were not asked to pay airtime or other production costs.

Running for two hours, "Ang Plataporma Ko" showed the three candidates presenting their assessment on the hindrances and strengths to this capital city's development.

The next 16 questions, copies of which were given to candidates ahead of the taping, talked on the role of citizens in governance, the principles that guide the candidates' programs, their policy and actions on corruption and illegal gambling.

These included proposed solutions to flooding, crimes, unemployment, rising demands for social services, traffic, rising population and in-migration, women empowerment, environmental threats, business growth and cultural and heritage preservation. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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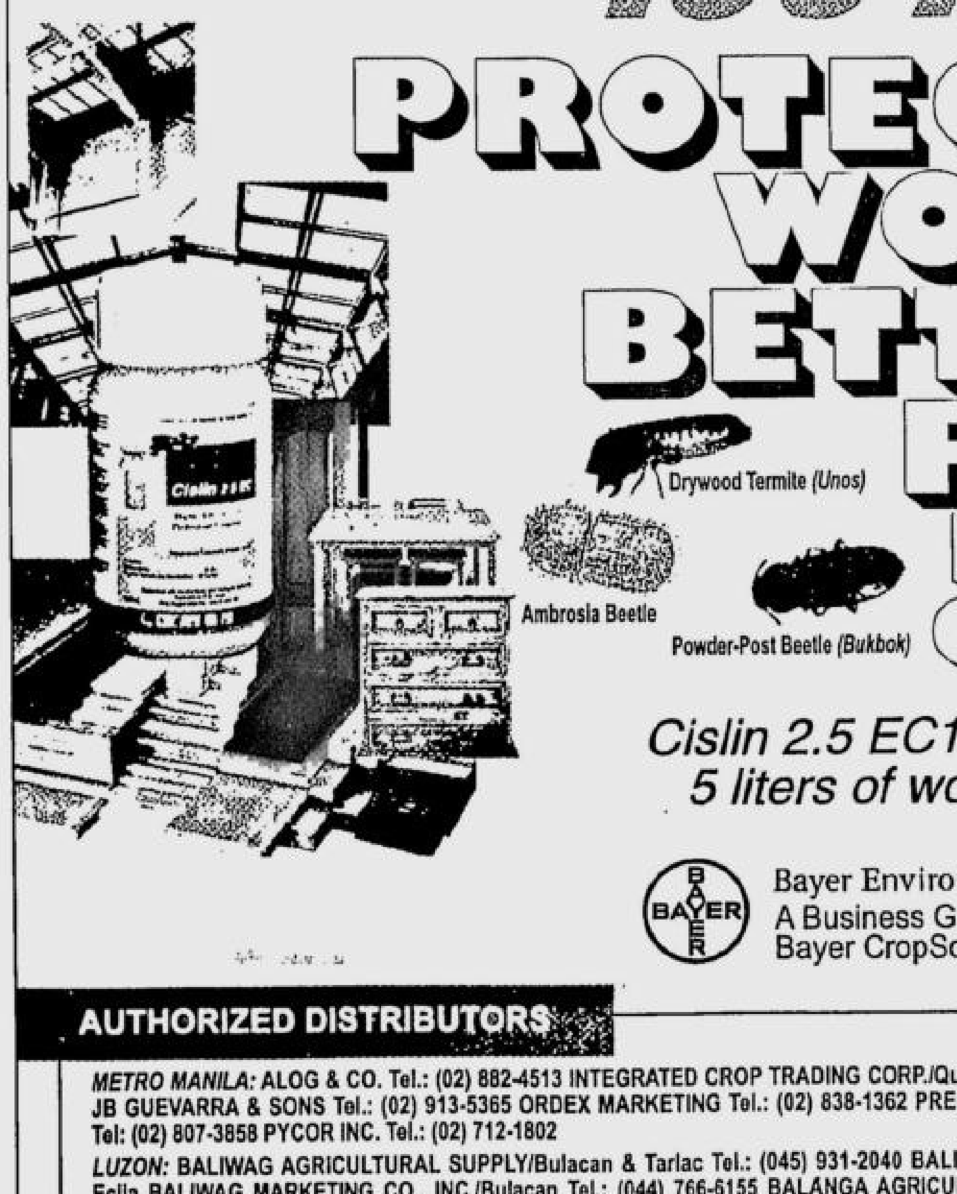

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Senior Supt. Isagani Nerez, Baguio police director, said their initial investigation showed that the murder was work-related.

Nerez said they are offering P100,000 to anyone who can identify the killer.

Suspect's description

Police described the suspect as between 27 and 28 years old, fair and stands at about 5 feet and 5 inches.

Espino said her mother earlier discussed with her the possible suspects in the September attack. "She did not deserve to die this way," Espino said.

At the time of her death, Sturch was teaching law at the BCF University. Espino said her mother was preparing to retire from teaching this year and had just submitted the grades of her last batch of students for commercial law review on Monday.

Sturch's remains will be taken to her hometown in Batac, Ilocos Norte, today.

SLOW RIDE
The ride is slow but sure aboard a carabao-pulled sled across a landscape drastically changed by Mt. Pinatubo's eruption and lahar flows in Botolan, Zambales.

8 E. Visayas schools plan tuition hike

TACLOBAN CITY—At least eight colleges in Eastern Visayas will increase their tuition by at least five percent this school year.

Ciriaco Sabino, Commissioner on Higher Education regional education supervisor, told the INQUIRER that the five to 10 percent increase imposed by these schools will be imposed only on new enrollees.

"Only freshmen will be paying the tuition fee increase to be imposed by these schools," he said.

Sabino identified these schools as the St. Joseph College and College of Maasin, both in Maasin City, Southern Leyte; STI in Ormoc and in Tacloban, Leyte; West Leyte College in Ormoc; Samar College, in Catbalogan town, Samar; ABE in Tacloban and the Holy Trinity College in Alangalang town, Leyte.

Eastern Visayas hosts about 60 privately owned colleges.

Sabino said other schools can no longer increase their tuition because they were given until Feb. 28 to inform CHEd of their intention to increase their fees.

He said the eight schools were increasing their tuition in order to address the clamor of their teaching and non-teaching personnel for a wage adjustment and an improvement of their facilities.

These schools, he added, were able to satisfy basic requirements as mandated by CHEd memorandum circular No. 13 series of 1998, which requires a consultation especially with student organizations before any increases in tuition and other fees. *Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Top PNP official says NPA rebs biggest threat to peaceful polls

By Ansbert Joaquin and Allan Macatuno
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The New People's Army, which figured in 187 election-related attacks since the start of the campaign period this year, remains to be the "most serious threat" to the holding of peaceful elections on May 10, Philippine National Police officials said.

Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, PNP spokesperson, said many of these were related to the NPA's practice of collecting permit-to-campaign (PTC) fees.

Dir. Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane, PNP chief, said apart from the NPA, some cases of election-related violence will come from candidates themselves.

"Overall, the NPA poses the biggest threat to the holding of peaceful elections, but scattered cases of election-related violence will be coming from the politicians themselves," Ebdane told reporters here.

The PNP held a command conference here on Tuesday and Wednesday to fine-tune all police security preparations for the May 10 elections.

Ebdane also said the police are now employing a different tack in dealing with the NPA's collection of PTC fees from candidates who want to campaign in rebel-controlled areas.

"If there are candidates whom we know of paying PTC fees to the NPA, we inform the community of their action and expose them to the people. We leave it up to the people to decide," Ebdane told reporters.

"We discourage candidates from paying, but how can they campaign without the risk of being harassed (by the NPA)? Our solution to that problem is to encourage politicians in an area to set a common date for them to campaign so that we can set up a common security preparation for all of them," he said.

He said stopping the NPA's collection of PTC fees depends on the candidates themselves.

"We need their cooperation. But if they want to pay the PTC fee, we cannot do anything about it," he said.

Aside from the NPA, Ebdane said cases of election-related violence are also the work of politicians.

"If there is a perceived threat that will mar the holding of the (peaceful) elections, it will surely come from the candidates themselves," he said.

Pampanga media launch voter education campaign

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Two media outfits and five cable TV operators in Pampanga have begun a voters' education program, jointly starting out a show where local candidates could present their platforms on issues raised by residents.

The first episode of "Ang Plataporma Ko" was simultaneously aired at 8 p.m. Monday on Satellite Cable Network's Infomax Channel 8, dwRW-FM 95.1, Prosat's Channel 3, Satlink's Channel 12, Datelsat's Channel 17 and on Broadcable's Channel 6 and 20.

Operating in Pampanga's capital city and major towns, these partners hope to "bring the information to roughly a million voters in the province," said Maureen Aquino, Infomax general manager.

The first episode featured three of four mayoral candidates in this city. They are former Board Member Rosve Henson, Vice Mayor Eligio Lagman and Rep. Oscar Rodriguez. Former Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo begged off, citing her "hectic schedule."

Aquino said election campaign ads were excluded from the commercials and the candidates were not asked to pay airtime or other production costs.

Running for two hours, "Ang Plataporma Ko" showed the three candidates presenting their assessment on the hindrances and strengths to this capital city's development.

The next 16 questions, copies of which were given to candidates ahead of the taping, talked on the role of citizens in governance, the principles that guide the candidates' programs, their policy and actions on corruption and illegal gambling.

These included proposed solutions to flooding, crimes, unemployment, rising demands for social services, traffic, rising population and in-migration, women empowerment, environmental threats, business growth and cultural and heritage preservation. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Bayan Muna to file libel suit vs Gonzales

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The party-list Bayan Muna will file today libel charges against National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales for accusing the group of being a front organization of communist rebels and of channeling millions of pesos in government funds to the rebel movement.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo told reporters that the case will be lodged before a regional trial court in Manila.

"We have decided to file the libel case against Gonzales tomorrow. He is accusing us with no proofs. Such allegations were libelous," he said in a news conference.

He also reiterated his call to President Macapagal-Arroyo to oust Gonzales from her Cabinet "for making false accusations without backing them up."

Ocampo was in Cebu City to attend the launching of Resist, a multi-sectoral group formed to coordinate with candidates to ensure the conduct of honest elections.

Gonzales earlier sought the disqualification of the six party-list groups, including Bayan Muna, during a presentation before the National Security Council on April 2.

He claimed that the Countrywide Development Fund (CDF) amounting to P500 million allotted to Ocampo and former representatives Crispin Beltran and Liza Maza were used to aid the New People's Army.

Beltran and Maza now lead Anakpawis and Gabriela Women's Party.

Ocampo strongly denied the allegations, calling these as blatant lies.

He said Gonzales had been going around the provinces to campaign against Bayan Muna and its allied organizations, branding their groups as communist fronts.

Isabela farmers offered aid in hybrid rice

A FARMING COUPLE transformed by hybrid rice production shows off hybrid rice stalks in their farm in Isabela.
PHOTO FROM PHILRICE

THE PROVINCIAL government of Isabela vowed to provide all-out support to farmers who would shift to planting hybrid rice.

"We fully support the national government's hybrid rice program and all farmers in Isabela who want to shift to planting hybrid or Gloria rice will be provided with technological assistance," said Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. in a statement.

Governor Dy, a successful businessman before entering politics, described how the farmers in his province have benefited from planting hybrid rice. "Imagine harvesting almost double than what you used to per hectare. That translates to double income per hectare," Dy said.

Board member Benito Calderon, a candidate for Congress in the second district of Isabela, also supported the program.

"The second district of Isabela, the municipality of Roxas in particular, has become a center for producing hybrid rice seeds which the farmers plant in their fields," Calderon said.

Calderon, a three-term mayor of Roxas, said hybrid seeds being produced in the second district of Isabela are being sold as far as Mindanao to support the growing number of farmers who are now planting hybrid rice.

Calderon vowed to support all initiatives to further expand hybrid rice production in Isabela province.

Dy and Calderon said they will make sure Isabela played a big part in realizing the country's plan to be self-sufficient in rice production. "After self-sufficiency, we will push harder so that our country can become a rice exporter," Dy and Calderon said.

The agriculture department in February named Isabela the outstanding province in hybrid rice production.

In March, it received the Dr. S.S. Virmani Award as hybrid rice grower. And more recently, the province received a special citation for planting hybrid rice from SL Agritech Corp.

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ROUNDUP

WW2 bombs dug up

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Construction workers at the Astorias Convention Center in Barangay Pasonanca here unearthed at least eight World War II vintage bombs, the military said last week. Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko said the discovery of the bombs on April 5 was relayed to the Army's 3rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team by Bing Rubio, a timekeeper of the Golden Bell 5DJ Construction Company. "When the EODT reached the site, they discovered that the bombs unearthed were vintage projectiles. Fortunately (the workers) did not play with (them)," Kyamko said.

Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Bomb blast kills 1

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A bomb explosion on April 1 killed a resident of Barangay Ipil, Siasi, Sulu, the military said. Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko identified the victim as Jundam Jallis. Kyamko said the explosion could be the work of terrorists. He said another explosion rocked downtown Jolo on April 2 and an unexploded bomb was also recovered in the area on the same day. He said the terror acts could be in retaliation for the recent arrests of suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Workers lose P3M

BACOLOD CITY—Four robbers on Monday took P3.2 million from the employees of the Gaisano Department Store who were on their way to deposit the money at the PCI-Equitable Bank in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental. Police said the robbers at gunpoint stopped the Pajero driven by Alvin Calvo along CL Ledesma Avenue of the city, left the driver behind and sped to the next town while holding hostage employees Marrisa de la Torre and Karen Ang. The two women were freed unharmed at Tabuk Suba, Barangay Buenavista in the adjacent town of Calatrava before the robbers fled with the store's vehicle and cash.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Cebuana nabbed

CEBU CITY—A Cebuana who became a naturalized American citizen in 1995 was arrested here last week by a team of Filipino and American law enforcers three years after she fled with her young daughter in Dec. 4, 2000 from Carlson, California. Grace Gucor-Barrows, who was wanted in the United States for parental kidnapping charges, was arrested in Barangay Buhisan here. She and her now six-year-old daughter were taken into custody by a team from the National Bureau of Investigation-Interpol Division, Bureau of Immigration and the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation and were later turned over to the US Embassy in Manila. Barrows was wanted in the States since Jan. 7, 2002 for fleeing in 2000 with her daughter without the consent of her former husband, James Michael Mitchell, who has been granted custody of the child. *Jolene Bulambot and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Appeal on rail system

ILOILO CITY—Thousands of families residing along the railroad tracks of Panay Railways Inc. are asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to review the rehabilitation plan of the rail system on Panay Island. Nestor Canong, president of the Panay Railways Neighborhood Association of Iloilo City (PARNAIC), said the homes of about 5,000 families in 20 villages in Jaro and La Paz districts would be demolished under the rehabilitation plan of the railway system. "We do not oppose the resurrection of the train in Panay but government must balance progress and development with the social and economic costs to the lives of its constituents," he said. A foreign consortium funding the rehabilitation of the Panay Railways Inc. at a cost of P23.5 billion has reportedly insisted in putting up the train terminals in areas that are densely populated

Raj Padilla, PDI Visayas Bureau

Bayan Muna to file libel suit vs Gonzales

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visay s Bu eau

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Isabela farmers offered aid in hybrid rice

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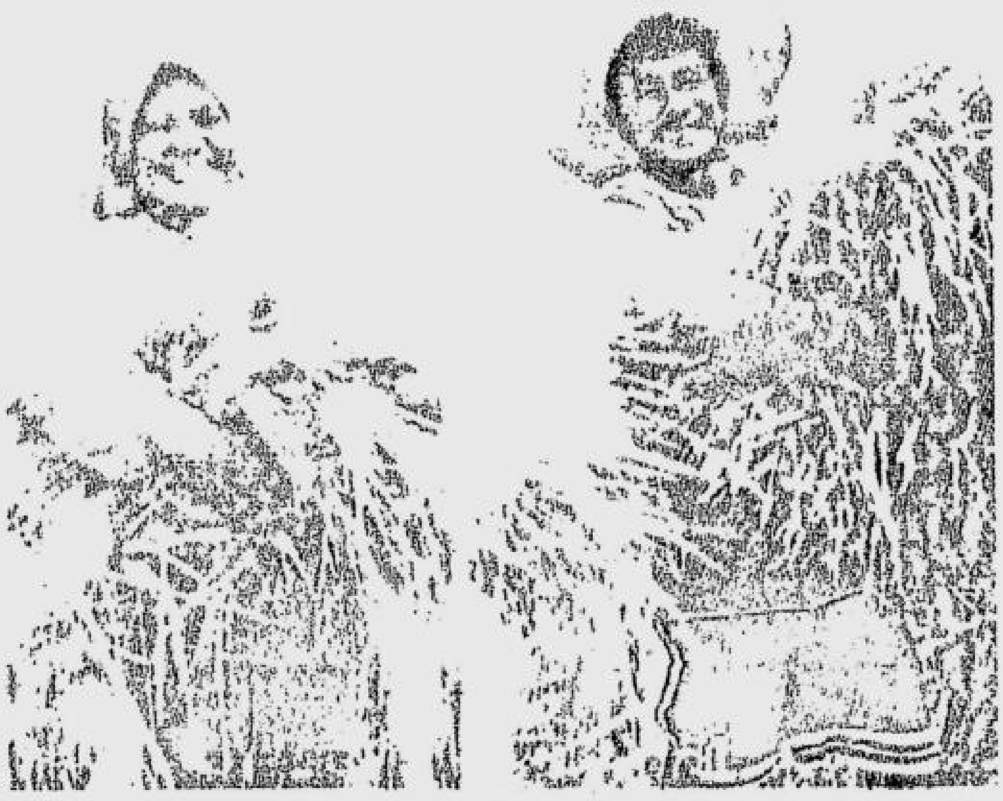

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ROUNDUP

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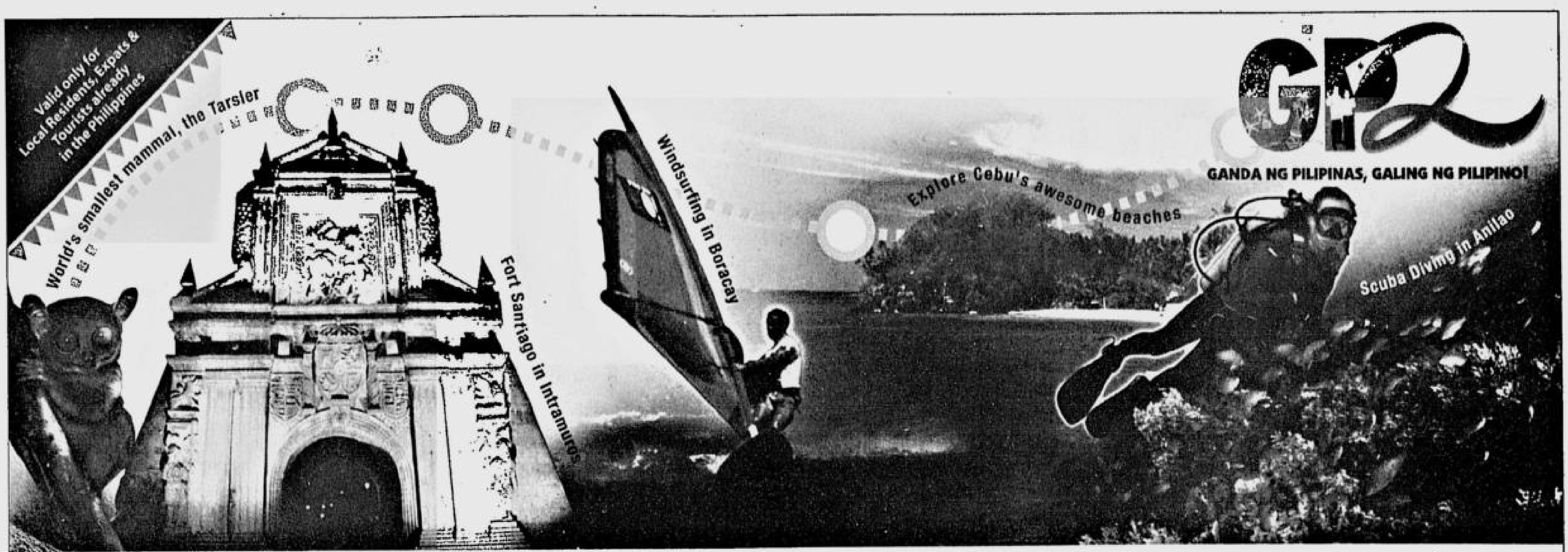
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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Floreño G. Solmirano**

Sorsogon war vets recall bloody feud

By Juan Escandor Jr. and Salvador Españo
Gubat, Sorsogon

ALMOST six decades after the Philippines was liberated from Japanese occupation forces in 1945, war veterans in Gubat, Sorsogon are still disturbed by a bloody rivalry that had hounded the guerrilla movement during that period of turmoil.

JAPS, 1942 GUBAT

THIS stolen shot of Japanese soldiers on board a truck was taken by Alfredo Enaje, a professional photographer in Gubat, Sorsogon during the Japanese occupation years. PHOTO COURTESY OF SALVADOR ESPAÑO

Retired US Army Col. Rafael F. Holazo, 90, who stays in Gubat, said the rivalry involved two groups fighting the Japanese—one organized by a former Sorsogon governor, and another formed by a former Philippine Constabulary officer.

Ex-Gov. Antonio "Tonying" Escudero initiated the formation of one group in April 1942, while an ex-PC commander known only as Lapuz formed another unit, which operated in the entire Bicol.

Holazo said he was then a sergeant major of the Philippine Scouts Regiment of the US Army when he was sent to Sorsogon to look into the matter. He found that the two factions demanded loyalty from their recruits, thus splitting the guerrilla movement in the province.

The rivalry is a historical scar that is better left untouched and forgotten, he said.

Veterans' accounts

But candid accounts made by several veterans revealed a story of power struggle, a battle for supremacy and official recognition from the Allied command between Escudero and Lapuz.

Escudero, whose members were mostly civilians, earned recognition from the Allied forces under Gen. Douglas MacArthur and assumed leadership of the resistance movement in Sorsogon in the latter years of the war.

The Lapuz group, introduced through the initiative of Edmundo "Moting" Espaldon in Gubat in May, 1942, was composed mostly of survivors of the infamous Death March, and police and military personnel who were active before the war broke out.

Escudero was said to have interpreted the entry of Lapuz's group as an affront to his territorial jurisdiction. The controversy had turned bloody as actual factional fighting ensued.

Abundio Escobedo said he was convinced to join the Lapuz group by fellow Death March survivor Salvador Encinas (Encinas was elected representative of the second district of Sorsogon during the pre-martial law years.)

"I could not refuse Barog," Escobedo said. He said he met with Lapuz at noon at the Gubat Catholic Cemetery in 1944, several days after he arrived in the town, and pledged loyalty to the former PC officer.

Headquarters

Escobedo said the Escudero group set up headquarters in San Juan, Casiguran while the Lapuz group was based at the Bacon town proper. Only Sorsogon town (now a city) was in between the guerrilla bases.

In Gubat, the Escudero group's command post was a house left behind by a Spanish family which returned to Spain before the war broke out. It was located in the area where the town's old municipal building, elementary school and the parish church of St. Anthony of Padua stood.

When the Escudero group learned of Escobedo's affiliation with the Lapuz group, he became a marked man.

Escobedo said he eluded "arrest" several times before he was finally caught while fleeing from a birthday party. It was not his time yet, he recalled. His captors agreed to his request not to be bound.

Escobedo said he was thrown into a pit when Escudero arrived and covered with earth. But surprisingly, he said, he was not harmed. He was allowed to escape and went to Matnog, Sorsogon.

Espaldon, the organizer of the Lapuz group, was earlier captured at the birthday party and reportedly shot and killed in a shallow pit in Barangay Ariman, where the Gubat public cemetery is now located.

When Escobedo was reassigned in a Lapuz guerrilla unit in Bulan, his new unit crossed paths with the Escudero group. He agreed to be brought to Escudero to talk.

He said he then decided to join the Escudero group.

Differences

The rivalry between the Escudero and Lapuz groups ran deep. They differed in their concept and application of "martial law" in times of war.

Escobedo said he was convinced about joining the Lapuz group because he believed it was the "legitimate force" at the time he pledged his loyalty.

"I heard that Escudero then wanted to control everything. Now, Lapuz wanted the military to be under his command and the civilian authority under Escudero's," said Espaldon's brother Osmondo, a teacher who was recruited to join the guerrillas in Gubat.

Already married during the war, Osmondo said Romeo Honasan, father of Sen. Gregorio Honasan, recruited him to join the Lapuz group. Honasan was the commander of guerrillas operating in the Albay-Sorsogon areas.

Silvestre Esporlas, another veteran, said Moting trained their guerrilla unit. "We had only three Springfield rifles to drill with while the Escudero group had complete ammunitions and supplies," he said.

Before the Fall of Bataan on April 9, 1941, and years before he joined the guerrillas, Esporlas was inducted as a member of the US Armed Forces in the Far East (Usaffe) on Nov. 24, 1941 by a certain Captain Wills and later assigned at I Coy, 3rd Battalion, 51st Infantry, 53rd Division.

He passed himself off as among the fleeing civilians during the Death March and escaped. He went back to Gubat where he joined the Lapuz group.

Merger

Esporlas recalled that Escudero and Lapuz met and ended their alliance in San Rafael, Prieto Diaz, Sorsogon. He said the animosity between the two guerrilla leaders in Sorsogon swept their respective commands.

He said the factionalism ended with the death of Moting. The followers of the Lapuz group decided to join the Escudero group immediately, several months before the Japanese forces were defeated.

Esporlas said the merger took place at the Escudero headquarters in Casiguran, when they were getting ready to storm the Japanese garrisons in Gubat and Irosin on Jan. 18, 1945.

At that time, the morale of the guerrillas in the headquarters was high, he said. A submarine had just delivered arms secretly off Calintaan Island in Matnog, which were brought to the headquarters.

SALVADOR Españo is the municipal development officer of Gubat. He is a private collector of prewar photographs of important events and personalities that were part of the history of Gubat, Sorsogon.

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'Tell it to the wind, I am not quitting'

From page A1

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"Once [Roco] wakes up, he will undergo a series of tests. By [Thursday], we will have a report of the kind of examination that he has to undergo," Tan said.

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Aquino later told the INQUIRER that Bangon Pilipinas standard-bearer Eddie Villanueva visited Roco on Tuesday at his house in La Vista, Quezon City, while the latter was packing for the trip.

"Roco was prayed over by Brother Eddie," said Aquino, and expressed thanks to the spiritual leader of the Jesus Is Lord Fellowship for showing concern for the welfare of the Alyansa standard-bearer.

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Aquino, Roco's running mate and now his chief rah-rah man, yesterday led six of the seven Alyansa senatorial candidates in resuming their campaign.

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Aquino and the candidates said they were overwhelmed by the "heartwarming" reception accorded them by Tondo residents.

"It's very encouraging, and I wish Raul Roco would see the footage. His heart would melt ... The response is very positive," Aquino told reporters.

Eduardo Bernardo, who was among the crowd that lined Wagas Street, approached Aquino to say that he did not believe Roco was withdrawing.

"Bicolanos never retreat from fights," said the 52-year-old resident.

"What he hear now is not reflective of the surveys. The surveys are insignificant. Here, we hear a different sound, a different call," said Alyansa senatorial candidate Perfecto Yasay Jr.

Candidate Frank Chavez said they missed Roco's presence.

"It's like campaigning without a hat on. It's often hot, and Roco would provide us comfort, inspiration and protection because he's our standard-bearer," Chavez said.

But he said that they had to press on with the campaign if only for the sake of the people who continued to support them.

"This is a challenge for us to step up and double our efforts to see to it that we gain the headway ... Whatever adverse effect his departure for the US may have on us, we're trying to double our efforts to equalize our situation," Chavez added.

Roco spirit

The group is scheduled to hold a motorcade in Metro Manila and then converge at the Edsa Shrine for a Mass today "to show that the Roco spirit is moving," Aquino said.

"Our machinery is intact; our organization is intact," said senatorial candidate Edno Joson.

Said candidate Nicanor Gatmaytan: "We'll be united so that when our president returns, we have consolidated our forces. We will show all citizens that Alyansa ng Pag-Asa is united to win this battle."

Added candidate Bong Coo: "The force is with us." *With a report from Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Roco followers wooed by Gloria, Ping camps

From page A1

This was announced yesterday by Promdi founder Emilio "Lito" Osmeña, a former governor of Cebu, who said he had received several calls from close friends of the President and from some financiers of Lacson.

He said the calls were made after his conversation with Roco on April 6, wherein they discussed the latter's health problem that required him to seek treatment in the United States.

Osmeña, however, denied reports that representatives of Lacson had offered a merger of forces, supposedly under which Roco would give way to Lacson and run for senator, and Lacson would carry the entire Alyansa senatorial slate.

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But in Victorias, Negros Occidental, Lacson said Osmeña had talked with Banayo and Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino, Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino secretary general, about the possible merger.

"I never had a chance to talk with Lito Osmeña. Lito Banayo and Butz Aquino did. That's as far as it goes," Lacson said, confirming reports making the rounds last weekend that Osmeña had touched base with his camp.

Reports of talks between the camps of Roco and Lacson and that of Ms Macapagal fanned rumors that the Alyansa standard-bearer was about to withdraw from the presidential race, something that Roco himself has denied.

Lacson also said some of the Alyansa senatorial candidates had called his camp's political officer, Armand Padilla, after Roco announced that he was leaving for the United States.

Padilla confirmed this, but declined to name names.

Asked if the Alyansa senatorial candidates would be welcome in his camp, Lacson said: "Yes, we are open."

'Too much'

But in Manila, Alyansa vice presidential candidate Herminio Aquino distanced himself from the supposed unification talks, saying that Lacson's camp was assuming "too much."

"I don't know about it. But definitely, [that move] is not from Raul Roco's group," Aquino said.

He said he did not know for certain that Osmeña had actually met with Lacson's representatives.

"If that meeting took place, it was not authorized by the Alyansa headquarters," said Aquino, who stressed that he was not aware that Osmeña had been authorized to enter into any negotiation with other political camps.

The Alyansa is made up of Roco's Aksyon Demokratiko, Renato de Villa's Reporma and Osmeña's Promdi.

De Villa, a former executive secretary, is in Texas with his wife, who is undergoing chemotherapy, according to Osmeña.

'Suggestion'

Contacted by phone for comment on Lacson's statement, Butz Aquino said: "I am not at liberty to discuss this matter at this time."

Banayo could not be immediately reached.

Regarding the calls that he said were separately made by the camps of Ms Macapagal and Lacson, Osmeña said a "suggestion" was made for mutual help vis-à-vis the May 10 elections.

"The logic is that since Roco has taken a leave from the campaign, they wanted to know what they could do to help the candidates of Promdi. In exchange, of course, they expect my support [of their candidates]," he said.

Osmeña said he neither committed to the "suggestion" nor turned it down.

He said he had to consult with his group, Promdi, as well as the other Alyansa members and their respective senatorial candidates, before making a decision.

"Whether I will accept the proposal of one group or the proposal of the other group, or none at all, will depend on many factors, which include consulting the people involved," he said.

Osmeña refused to disclose details on the "suggestion" of either camp, but said those who had phoned him were well-meaning friends of the President from one camp and financial backers of Lacson from the other.

He said Ms Macapagal's friends urged him to jump ship and join his elder brother, Sen. John Osmeña, and cousin, Cebu Mayor Tomas Osmeña, in the administration coalition. Both men are seeking reelection as administration candidates.

As for Lacson's backers, Osmeña said these were businessmen for whom "security and stability" were important.

No preconditions

Lacson had this to say to those wishing to join his camp: "They should believe in our convictions, in our advocacy... It would be difficult if their commitment is shallow.

"If they want to shift support to us, well and good. They are most welcome, and we will accept them. But if they will impose preconditions, such as [political or financial] concessions, then we may not be amenable."

Lacson also said Roco should assure Alyansa supporters that he would not abandon his candidacy lest "his supporters be in limbo."

"There have been calls [from Roco's supporters] because they feel orphaned," Lacson said. "He has to clarify a lot of things—if he will really come back and pursue his campaign."

But if Roco does drop out of the race, Lacson said he hoped that the bulk of Roco's supporters would join him.

"Most of his supporters are from the ABC classes. If they are ABC and are for Secretary Roco, they must not like (Ms Macapagal)," Lacson said.

The senator added: "He said he is sick and he needs medical attention. So let's give it to him."

Honorable exit

But Osmeña said Roco's run for the presidency was now at risk with his decision to leave for the United States at this critical time in the campaign period.

While others have described Roco's departure as a graceful exit from the presidential race, his ally said: "I think it's an honorable exit because he did not change his stand. He did not endorse anyone. He was critical of a choice between the corrupt and the incompetent." *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

Blast from the past: FPJ, Marcoses seal alliance

From page A1

The main star was Poe, himself a wedding godson of the Marcos couple, who had raised the hand of Marcos and running mate Arturo Tolentino for the 1986 snap presidential election.

Marcos legacy

Imelda told reporters that Poe would resurrect and continue the legacy of Marcos, which is to give to the people the proceeds of Marcos "foundations and wealth and assets."

"That is where the Marcos legacy lies. I'm sure FPJ will do this because this is the last will of Ferdinand Marcos, which is to help the people even if he is already gone," Imelda said.

The Marcoses have been claiming that the former strongman had intended to use the millions of dollars stashed in foreign bank accounts and foundations to help the country.

"But these assets are being used by the government for their personal selves and this is what makes me cry," Imelda said.

She said that if Poe won, the Marcoses would willingly give these assets to the government so he could use it for the people.

Imelda described the Marcos assets as her late husband's "heritage (*pamana*) for the Filipino people."

Burial

Asked if she expected Poe to grant Marcos state burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Imelda said: "I know he will do what is right because that (burial) is mandated by the law."

"We will do everything we can," Imelda said when asked if her family was helping Poe not only politically but also financially in his presidential campaign.

Hours before the rally here, Poe laid a wreath before the crypt containing the waxen remains of Marcos in Batac town.

In his speech, Jinggoy likened the supposed persecution of the Estradas by the Macapagal administration to what the Marcoses had experienced after February 1986.

Jinggoy said that if these could be done to the Marcoses and the Estradas, the ordinary people would not stand a chance against their oppressors.

Only hope

Bongbong was given the honor of introducing Poe to the crowd that packed the plaza fronting the provincial capitol.

He said Poe's candidacy was the people's chance to vindicate Estrada who won by a landslide in the 1998 elections but was forced out of office amid charges of massive corruption.

"They didn't respect our votes," Bongbong said of the civil society that played a significant role in the 2001 People Power uprising.

The people have not experienced relief and have been rendered hopeless because "they (civil society) deposed our President (Estrada) and forced upon us another President (Macapagal-Arroyo)," he said.

Bongbong said Poe was the "only hope of the Philippines because he is a good person."

In his speech, Poe told the crowd that Ilocos was the "home of Panday," referring to one of his more popular roles as Flavio, the blacksmith.

The movie "Ang Panday" was shot in the sand dunes of Ilocos Norte.

"I thank you for your support for 'Panday' and I again need your support," Poe said.

Before the rally, Poe told reporters that he could not make a comment yet on the Marcos wealth issue because he had yet to study the matter.

Poe said that a Marcos burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani was not yet being discussed.

Good-hair day for Gil, for now

From page A1

him a nuisance candidate is expected by the Supreme Court.

The high court, meeting here Tuesday, issued a "status quo" order preventing the Comelec from making its ruling final and executory. The en banc resolution, however, made it clear the high court is not yet giving "due course" to Gil's petition since it would have to wait for the Comelec's comments "within a nonextendible period of five days" from receipt of the resolution.

Gil had filed a petition to annul the Comelec decision earlier, saying the poll body acted "with grave abuse of discretion."

The high court also ordered Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and Honesto Isleta, Napoleon Galit, and Eduardo Morada, initiators of the disqualification case and supporters of presidential candidate Eddie Villanueva, to comment on Gil's petition within five days.

Lawyer Luzviminda Puno, the tribunal's clerk of court, said the order allowing Gil's name to be included in the official list of presidential candidates meant he could campaign until the court finally resolves his petition.

EDDIE GIL: Hair-raising

"The Comelec decision to disqualify him is not yet final," said Puno. "But this is still subject to the high court's final resolution when it tackles Gil's petition," she said. "The court will decide on this quickly because the May 10 elections are fast approaching."

With the high court order, Abalos said the Comelec had no choice but reinstate Gil on the list, but added it would defend its earlier decision.

The Comelec's second division had said Gil's certificate of candidacy was filed to "put the elections process in mockery" and that several circumstances showed Gil had "no bona fide intention to run for the office."

It cited reports that Gil did not pay his hotel, transportation and food bills during the first week of the campaign, that he used "bouncing checks," his conviction for falsification of public documents, among others.

Villanueva, Bangon Pilipinas standard-bearer, said the court decision was a "travesty of justice that would cause further confusion among the already confused voters."

Political ploy?

He said Gil did not present any new evidence to show he could wage a nationwide campaign "so there was really nothing to be reviewed by the Supreme Court. The Comelec decision was based on very clear and unmistakable grounds."

Bangon Pilipinas counsel Jordan Pizarras, citing unnamed sources, claimed Malacañang lawyers had "facilitated" the issuance of the status quo order as a "political ploy" to pressure Villanueva to withdraw.

Gil's petition should have been junked outright on a technicality because his lawyers failed to follow the elementary rules for the delivery of pleadings, he said, adding that Bangon Pilipinas was not furnished a copy of the petition which should have been done immediately.

Gil said he was thankful to the justices for giving him a chance to be heard again by the voters.

Claiming he is the "most serious" among the presidential candidates, Gil reiterated his campaign promise to pay the country's foreign debts if he is elected. He added that one reason the Comelec disqualified him was that he could not pay his hotel and other campaign expenses, but he said this was based on newspaper reports and were unverified.

Bank guarantee?

Gil included in his 30-page petition for certiorari a copy of an alleged bank guarantee dated Feb. 26, 2004 from the ING Bank N.V. in Amsterdam, the Netherlands which "confirms" that Gil and Elizabeth Samson, through Treasureland Ltd., have $10 billion deposited in the bank.

The funds were allegedly deposited under the name Treasureland Ltd. with account number 21449.001.8, and the guarantee signed by a certain E. Dralans, allegedly an officer of the bank.

Gil said the guarantee shows he has funds to pay the country's debts, adding that he earned these through his companies around the world. He added that he has another account with ABN-Amro bank and 25 other top banks "scattered all around the world."

Gil said that he should not be disqualified since he has "all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications for the presidency'."

Direct vote

"It must be emphasized that the president is elected only by direct vote of the electorate. And this direct vote should not be unduly circumscribed by the arbitrary and whimsical action of the Comelec," Gil said. "The widest range in the ch[illegible] candidates should be [illegible]ded the electorate, if democracy is to be vibrant and alive," he added.

‘Tell it to the wind, I am not quitting’

From page A1

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Asked if the Alyansa senatorial candidates would be welcome in his camp, Lacson said: "Yes, we are open."

‘Too much’

But in Manila, Alyansa vice presidential candidate Herminio Aquino distanced himself from the supposed unification talks, saying that Lacson's camp was assuming "too much."

"I don't know about it. But definitely, [that move] is not from Raul Roco's group," Aquino said.

He said he did not know for certain that Osmeña had actually met with Lacson's representatives.

"If that meeting took place, it was not authorized by the Alyansa headquarters," said Aquino, who stressed that he was not aware that Osmeña had been authorized to enter into any negotiation with other political camps.

The Alyansa is made up of Roco's Aksyon Demokratiko, Renato de Villa's Reporma and Osmeña's Promdi.

De Villa, a former executive secretary, is in Texas with his wife, who is undergoing chemotherapy, according to Osmeña.

‘Suggestion’

Contacted by phone for comment on Lacson's statement, Butz Aquino said: "I am not at liberty to discuss this matter at this time."

Banayo could not be immediately reached.

Regarding the calls that he said were separately made by the camps of Ms Macapagal and Lacson, Osmeña said a "suggestion" was made for mutual help vis-à-vis the May 10 elections.

"The logic is that since Roco has taken a leave from the campaign, they wanted to know what they could do to help the candidates of Promdi. In exchange, of course, they expect my support [of their candidates]," he said.

Osmeña said he neither committed to the "suggestion" nor turned it down.

He said he had to consult with his group, Promdi, as well as the other Alyansa members and their respective senatorial candidates, before making a decision.

"Whether I will accept the proposal of one group or the proposal of the other group, or none at all, will depend on many factors, which include consulting the people involved," he said.

Osmeña refused to disclose details on the "suggestion" of either camp, but said those who had phoned him were well-meaning friends of the President from one camp and financial backers of Lacson from the other.

He said Ms Macapagal's friends urged him to jump ship and join his elder brother, Sen. John Osmeña, and cousin, Cebu Mayor Tomas Osmeña, in the administration coalition. Both men are seeking reelection as administration candidates.

As for Lacson's backers, Osmeña said these were businessmen for whom "security and stability" were important.

No preconditions

Lacson had this to say to those wishing to join his camp: "The[illegible] should believe in our conviction[illegible] in our advocacy. [illegible] It would be difficult if their commitment [illegible] shallow.

"If they want to shift support to us, well and good. They are most welcome, and we will accept them. But if they will impose preconditions, such as [political or financial] concessions, then we may not be amenable."

Lacson also said Roco should assure Alyansa supporters that he would not abandon his candidacy lest "his supporters be in limbo."

"There have been calls [from Roco's suppor[illegible] aus[illegible] feel orphaned," Lacson said. "He has to clarify a lot of things [illegible] will really come back and [illegible] his campaign."

But if Roco does drop o[illegible] race, Lacson said he hope[illegible] the bulk of Roco's [illegible] would join him.

"Most of hi[illegible] from the ABC [illegible] ABC and are [illegible] they must no[illegible] Ma[illegible] gai[illegible]

The[illegible]

Honorable exit

But Osmeña said R[illegible] the presiden[illegible] was [illegible] with his decision t[illegible] United State[illegible] at th[illegible] in the campaign [illegible]

While others [illegible] Roco's departure [illegible] it from the preside[illegible] ti[illegible] ally said. "I thin[illegible] able exit bec[illegible] he [illegible] not change his sta[illegible]. He [illegible] endorse anyone. He [illegible] of a choice between the [illegible] and the incompet[illegible]" *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

Blast from the past: FPJ, Marcoses seal alliance

From page A1

The main star was Poe, himself a wedding godson of the Marcos couple, who had raised the hand of Marcos and running mate Arturo Tolentino for the 1986 snap presidential election.

Marcos legacy

Imelda told reporters that Poe would resurrect and continue the legacy of Marcos, which is to give to the people the proceeds of Marcos "foundations and wealth and assets."

"That is where the Marcos legacy lies. I'm sure FPJ will do this because this is the last will of Ferdinand Marcos, which is to help the people even if he is already gone," Imelda said.

The Marcoses have been claiming that the former strongman had intended to use the millions of dollars stashed in foreign bank accounts and foundations to help the country.

"But these assets are being used by the government for their personal selves and this is what makes me cry," Imelda said.

She said that if Poe won, the Marcoses would willingly give these assets to the government so he could use it for the people.

Imelda described the Marcos assets as her late husband's "heritage (*pamana*) for the Filipino people."

Burial

Asked if she expected Poe to grant Marcos state burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Imelda said: "I know he will do what is right because that (burial) is mandated by the law."

"We will do everything we can," Imelda said when asked if her family was helping Poe not only politically but also financially in his presidential campaign.

Hours before the rally here, Poe laid a wreath before the crypt containing the waxen remains of Marcos in Batac town.

In his speech, Jinggoy likened the supposed persecution of the Estradas by the Macapagal administration to what the Marcoses had experienced after February 1986.

Jinggoy said that if these could be done to the Marcoses and the Estradas, the ordinary people would not stand a chance against their oppressors.

Only hope

Bongbong was given the honor of introducing Poe to the crowd that packed the plaza fronting the provincial capitol.

He said Poe's candidacy was the people's chance to vindicate Estrada who won by a landslide in the 1998 elections but was forced out of office amid charges of massive corruption.

"They didn't respect our votes," Bongbong said of the civil society that played a significant role in the 2001 People Power uprising.

The people have not experienced relief and have been rendered hopeless because "they (civil society) deposed our President (Estrada) and forced upon us another President (Macapagal-Arroyo)," he said.

Bongbong said Poe was the "only hope of the Philippines because he is a good person."

In his speech, Poe told the crowd that Ilocos [illegible] the "home of Panday," referring to one of his more popular roles as Flavio, the blacksmith.

The movie "Ang Panday" was shot in the sand dunes of Ilocos Norte.

"I thank you fo[illegible] support for 'Panday' and I ag[illegible]n need your support," Poe said.

Before the rally, Poe told reporters that he could not make a comment yet on the Marcos wealth issue because he had yet to study the matter.

Poe said that a Marcos burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani was not yet being discussed.

Good-hair day for Gil, for now

From page A1

EDDIE GIL: Hair-raising

him a nuisance candidate is expected by the Supreme Court.

The high court, meeting here Tuesday, issued a "status quo" order preventing the Comelec from making its ruling final and executory. The en banc resolution, however, made it clear the high court is not yet giving "due course" to Gil's petition since it would have to wait for the Comelec's comments "within a non-extendible period of five days" from receipt of the resolution.

Gil had filed a petition to annul the Comelec decision earlier, saying the poll body acted "with grave abuse of discretion."

The high court also ordered Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and Honesto Isleta, Napoleon Galit, and Eduardo Morada, initiators of the disqualification case and supporters of presidential candidate Eddie Villanueva, to comment on Gil's petition within five days.

[illegible]

tribunal's clerk of court, said the order allowing Gil's name to be included in the official list of presidential candidates meant he could campaign until the court finally resolves his petition.

"The Comelec [illegible] to dis[illegible]

Puno. "But this is still subject to the high court's final resolution when it tackles Gil's petition," she said. "The court will decide on this quickly because the May 10 elections are fast approaching."

With the high court order, Abalos said the Comelec had no choice but reinstate Gil on the list, but added it would defend its earlier decision.

The Comelec's second division had said Gil's certificate of candidacy was filed to "put the elections process in mockery" and that several circumstances showed Gil had "no bona fide intention to run for the office."

It cited reports that Gil did not pay his hotel, transportation and food bills during the first week of the campaign, that he used "bouncing checks," his conviction for falsification of public documents, among others.

Villanueva, Bangon Pilipinas standard-bearer, said the court [illegible] "travesty of justice" [illegible] sion among the already confused voters."

Political ploy?

He said Gil did not present any new evidence to show he could wage a nationwide campaign "so there was really nothing to be reviewed by the Supreme Court. The Comelec decision was based on very clear and unmistakable grounds."

Bangon Pilipinas counsel Jordan Pizarras, citing unnamed sources, claimed Malacañang lawyers had "facilitated" the issuance of the status quo order as a "political ploy" to pressure Villanueva to withdraw.

Gil's petition should have been junked outright on a technicality because his lawyers failed to follow the elementary rules for the delivery of pleadings, he said, adding that Bangon Pilipinas was not furnished a copy of the petition which should have been done immediately.

[illegible] justices for giving him a chance to be heard again by the voters.

Claiming he is the "most serious" among the presidential candidates, Gil reiterated his campaign promise to pay the country's foreign debts if he is elected. He added that one reason the Comelec disqualified him was that he could not pay his hotel and other campaign expenses, but he said this was based on newspaper reports and were unverified.

Bank guarantee?

Gil included in a[illegible]-page petition for certiorari a copy of an alleged bank guarantee dated Feb. 26, 2004 from the ING Bank N.V. in Amsterdam, the Netherlands which confirms that Gil and Elizabeth Samso[illegible] through Treasureland Ltd h[illegible] $10 billion deposited [illegible] bank.

The funds were allegedly deposited under the name Treasu[illegible] 21449.001.8, and the guarantee signed by a certain E. Dralan[illegible] allegedly an officer of the bank.

Gil said th[illegible] guarantee show[illegible] he has fun[illegible] the country's debt [illegible] med these [illegible] throu[illegible] pan[illegible] around the world. He added that he ha[illegible] other account with ABN Am[illegible] bank and 25 other top banks [illegible] tered all around the [illegible]

Gil said that he [illegible]

Direct vote

[illegible]

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Roco originally intended to return from US a week before May 10 polls

By Michael Lim Ubac

RAUL Roco originally intended to announce that he would return from the United States a week before the May 10 elections.

He initially put the first week of May as his date of return in a predeparture statement he was scheduled to read at a press conference before noon on Monday at the Alyansa ng Pag-asa headquarters in Pasig City.

But on the advice of his running mate, Herminio Aquino, the date was removed during a closed-door meeting that preceded the press conference.

It was Aquino himself who disclosed this to the INQUIRER at the airport shortly after Roco flew out before midnight on Monday.

"I advised him to rethink the date," Aquino said, suggesting that the resulting "suspense" could boost Roco's candidacy.

According to Aquino, this detail means only one thing: Roco is not quitting the race and is dead serious about winning.

"Trust me, he will return," Aquino said.

Other details appear to back that statement.

A close aide of Roco's said he and his companions—wife Sonia, daughter Neena and staffer Jetka Lim—had return tickets (open booking) on the same airline, Continental Airways.

His youngest daughter, Sinara, 23, is scheduled to graduate from the University of the Philippines on April 24.

And, responding to reporters' questions shortly before he boarded the plane, Roco said: "I expect the [medical checkup] results to be very good."

Furthermore, Roco's campaign spokesperson and political strategist Jaime Galvez-Tan announced that the Alyansa standard-bearer was expected back in two weeks.

Alyansa senatorial candidates Frank Chavez and Nicanor Gatmaytan expressed faith in Roco's promise to return before the elections.

"That was the agreement of everyone—that we will remain solid, that we will stand by each other in the face of this temporary distraction," Chavez said, adding:

"The way I look at it is this: If he tells us now that he's not quitting and, in the end, he quits, that's unforgivable."

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From page A1

actor Poe.

Ms Macapagal, whose two-and-a-half-year tenure as President had been marred by divisive politics, an army mutiny and coup rumors, vowed to unite the country and bring about a "new Philippine nationalism."

"In these challenging times, the country has a clear choice between two candidates: to move forward with an experienced, hands-on leader who has a specific platform for change or take the risk on an inexperienced actor, who is still reliant on advisers to make important decisions," she said.

Backed by the elite

It was her most direct reference to Poe since the presidential campaign began in February.

Aside from the MBC, the forum was sponsored by the American Chamber of Commerce, Bankers Association of the Philippines, Bishops-Businessmen's Conference, European Chamber of Commerce and Management Association of the Philippines.

Romulo recalled that, in an MBC survey in January, 47.6 percent of the members chose Ms Macapagal as the candidate most capable of resolving the issues of law and order, graft and corruption, revenue, public debt, fiscal deficit, economy and attracting investments.

Roco got 29.3 percent and Sen. Panfilo Lacson 4.9 percent.

"No one voted for Poe," Romulo said.

Second time around

He added: "Should the voters decide to validate on May 10 the results of the MBC's January survey, it will give you, Madam President, a second opportunity to pursue the goals of your presidency, which you well expressed to us in January 2002."

Ms Macapagal said the business community and the people at large could choose to "build on a strong start we have made, with a pro-poor platform that is brimming with new ideas for the future."

"Or the Philippines can start all over again with a cynical platform empty of ideas and stuck in the past." She added: "The choice is clear: you can vote for a six-point plan of action and a record of accomplishment or vote for someone who has no plan for education, no plan for clean water, no plan for job creation, no plan for health care, no plan for energy and no plan for international relations."

And she rubbed it in.

"Yes, we need to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner but that can't be accomplished by leaders and their backroom advisers who only provide a steady diet of political attacks and lawsuits."

Ms Macapagal said she had stabilized the political situation, restored international confidence in the country, generated jobs and generally improved the economy in her short stint as President.

"But we have a long way to go. These accomplishments are a mere down payment on what is needed," she said. "In the next six years, I pledge a pro-poor agenda to end poverty and ... unite the nation," she said.

To make hard decisions

Recalling how she quashed a mutiny by more than 300 junior military officers last July, Ms Macapagal said: "I hope and I intend that in my next administration—with a new electoral mandate—I will be able to unite the nation and bring about what is called by many a government of national unity."

The President said she had the experience to deliver on her promises.

"I intend to make the hard decisions and to provide the new specific ideas to mark the beginning of the end of poverty, as we know it."

In the next six years, if elected, she would:

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Echoing FPJ

"And most importantly, I will fight for the people who have no voice," she said, echoing a major theme of Poe's campaign.

The President said business could only neglect the poor at its peril.

"We must offer hope, not fear; sunlight, not darkness; we must take the hopes and dreams of the poor seriously," she said. "The poor of this nation deserve no less, we ignore them at our own peril."

The country cannot continue to be a nation divided between the rich and poor.

New Filipino nationalism

She said, "The working poor deserve the right to a rise in standard of living, fair access to the courts, clean water, affordable energy, a good education, high-wage jobs and economic incentives for self-employed and entrepreneurial class."

The problems of the poor must be tackled with aggressive economic expansion, she said.

"I am proposing a new Philippine nationalism based on championing our most valuable asset: the people of the Philippines ... It's not enough to have an affinity for the poor," she said.

Ms Macapagal said a leader must present a specific platform and have the experience to carry it out.

"I am that candidate," she said.

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Makati office raid yields fake US notes

By Leila B. Salaverria

THIS time, if this batch of US Federal Reserve Notes were real, the Philippine debt could really be paid off.

The National Bureau of Investigation has seized $4.8 quadrillion worth of counterfeit Federal Reserve Notes placed in 24 steel boxes and three gold coins from a Makati office last week. A fake gold bar was also recovered.

Agents of the NBI's National Capital Region Division seized the fake notes from the office of a certain Angeolino Tesoro at Country Space I along Dela Rosa Street in Salcedo Village on the strength of a warrant issued by Judge Manuel Victorio.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the Makati raid was done with the help of staff members of the ABS-CBN show Private I.

This confiscation took place on April 6 before the arrest of five men on Black Saturday, who were in possession of around $10 billion worth of fake US reserve notes.

But NBI Assistant Director Loli-to Utitco said the Makati group responsible for the fake notes and the five men arrested earlier probably belonged to different syndicates.

Wycoco said the syndicate handling the fake notes in the Makati office victimizes Japanese businessmen by passing off the notes as part of the cargo lost in Mindanao after a plane crashed shortly after World War II. The US had printed the reserve notes during the war as part of a plan to rehabilitate war-torn countries.

NBI investigators said the syndicate would even show potential victims a promissory note from a European bank issued on the basis of the Federal Reserve Notes.

Wycoco said the steel cases contained several sheets of Federal Reserve Notes each amounting to $100 billion dollars. However, Charles Stuab from the US Secret Service had already issued a certification that the seized notes were all counterfeit.

"*Kung totoo lang ito, nabayaran na ang utang ng Pilipinas* (If these notes were real, we could pay off the Philippine debt)," said Wycoco.

DSWD chief won't dance to 'Bulaklak'

By Volt Contreras

FROM "Kinse Años" to "Ocho-ocho."

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman yesterday appealed to TV variety shows to refrain from having talent contests that would have minors wearing skimpy attire or gyrating to what she considered sexually suggestive dance songs, like the popular "Ocho-ocho," "Spaghetti" and "Bulaklak."

Lewd gyrations

Soliman argued that such entertainment numbers impress upon children and adolescents that "lewd gyrations (*malalaswang kilos*) are rewarded and applauded."

"Such songs and dance steps don't help in teaching them about the dignity of their bodies," she said in a press conference.

The social welfare chief voiced this concern upon reporting that the department "rescued between 3,000 to 4,000" young girls from nightspots in the country in 2003 alone.

Sex trivialized

Soliman warned that exposing minors to songs or dances with sexual innuendos could lead them to think that sex was "something funny or playful, a product that can be peddled."

The children themselves don't realize this yet, she explained, but grownups know that either the lyrics or body movements are laced with erotic double-meanings.

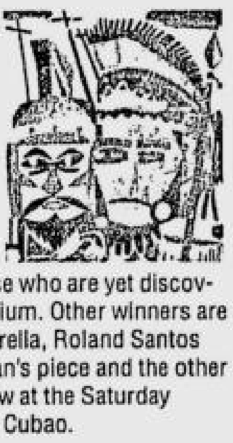
"Ocho-ocho," for example, is street lingo for gay sex, she noted.

METROBRIEFS

Ateneo soars

THE ATENEO de Manila University, representing the Philippines, emerged as champion in the 45th Philip C. Jessep International Law Moot Court Competition, the largest and most prestigious moot court competition in the world. It defeated Singapore, a four-time champion, in one of the best and closest championship round for several years. The competition was held in Washington, D.C. from March 29 to April 3, 2004. Photo shows the members of the team with competition judges Fausto Focar and M. Cherif Basscouni (right). Front row, left to right: Sylvia Jo Sablo (team coach), and team member Andrew Patrick Fornier. Second row, left to right: Justine Adrianne Guerrero, Aimee Bernadette Dabu, Frederick Ryan Castillo (team captain), and Ryan Mancera.

Top collage



JOSE Dinglasan's "Moriones" (right) has topped the Saturday Groups' collage competition held recently. Lone juror Pandy Aviado rated the work outstanding. He said Dinglasan showed he was several steps ahead of those who are yet discovering collage as an art medium. Other winners are Sheila Tiangco, Naning Estrella, Roland Santos and Roel Obemio. Dinglasan's piece and the other entries are currently on view at the Saturday Group Gallery in Ali Mall in Cubao.

Top seller

HONDA Cars Philippines, Inc. (HCPI) has awarded Honda Cars Kalookan, Inc. (HCKI) for generating the highest Value Insurance Program (VIP) sales among the 19 dealers nationwide during its 2004 Dealers Convention held recently at the Dusit Hotel. From left to right: Mitsunari Takano, HCPI president; Ms. Yvonne Yuchengco, Malayan Insurance president, Mr. Johnny Fetalvero, HCKI general manager, Masanori Honda, director and EVP of Tokio Marine Malayan Insurance Co., Inc., and Ms. Paraluman Sanchez, Malayan Insurance Sales & Marketing head.

MISS PHILIPPINES 2004

Candidates for Miss Philippines 2004 (L-R) Jasmin Chua, 21; Hanna Miguel, 18; Vivianne Hazel Magsino, 18; Tamera Marie Szijarto, 21; Francis Dianne Cervantes, 22; and Nadia Camolli, 20, plant trees during the press presentation Wednesday in Mandaluyong City. ERNIE U. SARMENTO

Ladies bag gives away suspect in Manila rob

SUSPICIOUS of a jaywalking man carrying a ladies' bag, a police officer in Manila ended up yesterday apprehending a robbery suspect.

PO2 Ferdinand Leyva was on patrol along Finance Road when he saw two men, one of whom was toting a small black leather shoulder bag, hurriedly crossing the road.

Since the two men did not use the pedestrian crossing, Leyva tried to accost them. The two men ran away, however.

The lawman gave chase and was able to collar the man with the bag, who was later identified as 29-year-old Antonio de Luna.

Leyva then brought De Luna to the Ermita Police Station for questioning.

Investigator PO2 Jess Delos Santos said that while de Luna was being questioned, a woman arrived to report a robbery and saw De Luna.

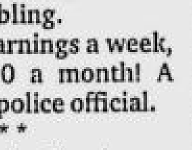
Therese Valera, 21, told police that de Luna was one of two men who took her belongings at knife-point earlier that morning at the corner of P. Burgos and Maria Orosa streets.

She was inside a Mabini-bound jeep at that time and was on her way to work. *Leila Salaverria and Niel Lim*

Illegal gambling capital

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



THE MANILA'S Finest Brotherhood, an association of Manila policemen up to the rank of SPO4, has taken offense at the statement of their big boss, Director Ricardo de Leon, about mulcting cops.

De Leon, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), said there was rampant extortion by law enforcers in Manila. In order to curb this, he said, he was deputizing transport groups to report the activities of corrupt policemen.

So, what's wrong with De Leon's statement? Could the big chief be faulted for telling the truth?

* * *

Yes, extortion by traffic cops on drivers of jeepneys, buses and other public utility vehicles is the rule rather than the exception.

It has been a long-standing practice of superiors at the Manila police traffic division to assign favored subordinates to areas with heavy traffic volume.

Why? Because there's plenty of money in those areas where there's a heavy volume of public utility vehicles. Jeepney, taxi and bus drivers shell out money to traffic cops so they won't be apprehended picking up passengers in "no-loading and unloading" and "no-parking" zones. Most violators of traffic rules are public utility vehicle drivers.

* * *

The money earned by traffic cops on the beat from extortion is shared with their superiors at the traffic division. Of course, the biggest cut of the extortion pie goes to the chief.

But the chief doesn't get the money all to himself. He, too, shares it with the Big Chief to whom he's answerable.

To repeat, the practice has been there a long time.

However, the practice is much more rampant today at the Western Police District (WPD) than it was before.

The Big Chief earns more now than his predecessors.

* * *

My sources in Manila say that of the P725,000 weekly "take" by the Big Chief, P250,000 comes from the traffic division.

What does this mean? The traffic division as a group contributes the biggest cut in the extortion pie.

The other earnings come from illegal gambling.

At P725,000 earnings a week, that's P2,900,000 a month! A big fortune for a police official.

* * *

Manila is now the illegal gambling capital in the country. There's illegal gambling in every corner of the city. *Jueteng*, racing bookie, video *karera*, *peryahan*, *pula't puti*, *tupada* (illegal cockfights), "hi-low" games, *loteng* (combination of lotto and jueteng), illegal jai alai, and *didal*—you name it, Manila has it.

The worst kind of illegal gambling is *didal* from which a word in street lingo, meaning "to deceive," comes. *Didal* is played on street corners. Three soft drink crowns are juggled by a dealer, who places a tiny seed or a small pebble underneath one of them. The bettor wins if he guesses right where the tiny seed or small pebble is placed. Nobody wins in this game because the dealer inserts the seed or pebble into his thumbnail when the bet is high on a particular crown. Through a sleigh of hand he places the seed beneath the crown with the least bet.

The victims of didal are mostly students or newly arrived provincianos.

The Western Police District turns a blind eye on all these illegal gambling activities. Now we know why.

Plateless…

From page A24

ample supply of license plates, although motorists no longer have the luxury of choosing even the ending of the plates to suit their preferred color-coding day.

The LTO also said it had forwarded to traffic enforcers, as well as the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, a list of commemorative plates it had authorized.

Unauthorized commemorative plates or ones that have been circulating for more than a year could no longer be used.

The LTO stopped issuing vanity plates in September 2003 as it had become a source of corruption.

4 Marikina cops held for extortion

By Luige del Puerto

WHO DO you turn to when law enforcers start preying on you?

Marikina City's fight against illegal drugs took a bad turn Tuesday after four of its officers were arrested while extorting money from a suspected drug pusher.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, backed by the city police, arrested PO2 Pepito Valdez, PO2 Diones Salcedo, PO1 Virgilio Calanioga Jr. and PO1 Pedro Avelino Jr. in an entrapment operation in the Tumana District at 11 a.m.

Marked money

In its report, the CIDG said the four policemen had just received P10,000 in marked money from Salima Lee.

Lee, wife of PO2 Gary Lee, also an officer from Marikina City, is on the police's list of suspected drug pushers. She has a pending case and is reportedly out on bail.

Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr., head of the CIDG-Task Force Amor, swooped down on the four lawmen, who were on board a police car, after allegedly taking money from Lee.

When searched, they yielded P1,480 in marked money.

Prior to their arrest, Valdez, Salcedo and Calanioga had a clean record. However, Avelino had tested positive in a drug test last year, the police said.

The four are currently detained at the CIDG headquarters in Camp Crame.

PO2 Lee himself has been linked to the illegal drugs trade, according to police chief Sr. Supt. Felipe Rojas.

Dismissal recommended

According to Rojas, they have recommended the dismissal from the service of PO2 Lee for going AWOL (absence without official leave) for a few months.

During the New Year celebrations, PO2 Lee was caught indiscriminately firing an unlicensed gun. He spent a few days in jail for that offense.

This week, an arrest warrant was issued against Lee for the New Year incident.

Meanwhile, the CIDG has started investigation on the criminal liability of the four allegedly mulcting policemen.

On the other hand, the city police is looking into the administrative aspect of the case.

2 liters of deadly liquid ooze from dump sites every second

TWO LITERS a second. Twenty-eight Olympic-size swimming pools a year.

That's not Metro Manila's water consumption rate but the amount of leachate or toxic fluid that oozes from the capital's major open dump sites and mixes with rivers and underground water.

The chilling figures came from an Asian Development Bank study released last Monday, which warned of a garbage crisis in the next two years unless existing dumps servicing the metropolis are replaced with more environmentally-sound sanitary landfills.

According to the ADB-funded "Garbage Book," the 22-hectare Payatas dump in Quezon City has been producing leachate at "two liters per second" since opening in 1973.

At that rate, the runoff would amount to 63 million liters a year or "fill 18-wheeler truck tankers every five hours." *Volt Contreras*

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MEGALOTTO 6/45
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Plateless cars face immediate impounding

No more excuses as MMDA, LTO resume drive

By Clarissa Batino and Margaux Ortiz

STARTING today, vehicles with no license plates should be kept off Metro Manila's roads or these would be impounded and their owners slapped stiff penalties.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios, issued this warning yesterday as grace period for owners to acquire authorized license plates for their vehicles ended today.

No plates? Don't use

"If their vehicles don't have proper license plates, then they should not use it," Vergel de Dios stressed.

Motorists driving plateless vehicles will be apprehended and immediately fined P500 for violation of the "no plate, no travel" policy.

Their vehicles will then be impounded with no questions asked.

Impounded vehicles will only be released after the payment of a P5,000 fine and a storage fee equivalent to P40 for every day that the vehicle remains unclaimed.

Anti-crime move

The Land Transportation Office (LTO) yesterday vowed that securing plates would take only between four and seven days for locally-assembled vehicles and 14 days for imported ones.

LTO chief Anneli Lontoc said the LTO would issue a set of guidelines today to clarify the parameters of the no plate, no travel policy.

Lontoc said it would take no longer than 14 days for an imported vehicle to register and secure a plate from the time it would land in the Philippines. Previously, it took three to four months.

7-day permit

"As for locally-assembled vehicles, the owners could get their plates even in four days. But we agreed to give a seven-day permit for allowance," said the LTO chief.

The LTO chief explained that vehicles to be delivered to the owner would be allowed to travel on the basis of the conduction sticker. But once the vehicle has reached the owner, the conduction sticker is no longer valid.

Instead, the owner has to use a seven-day conduction permit that the LTO has issued to the car dealer. During the seven-day period, the vehicle would only be allowed to travel to complete the registration.

Other transport means

"If registration is not completed within the seven day period, we hope that the owner would just use other means of transport to finish the documentation. Anyway, we doubt if it would take the LTO more than seven days to register," said Lontoc.

The LTO assured car owners that it has an

PLATELESS/ A23

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Drive away in style when you win one of three brand new Mitsubishi Lancer GLS in Robinsons Click & Drive Summer Raffle Promo! Everytime you shop at Robinsons Department Store, Robinsons Supermarket & Big R Supercenter or dine at the Robinsons Food Court gives you a raffle coupon for a chance to join and win. And not only that, you can also click away because we're giving 105 Kodak Easyshare CX6230 digital cameras in the weekly draws! Now that's enough drive to get you rushing and shopping at Robinsons Malls!

Promo period is from April 15 to June 15, 2004
See flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0701, Series of 2004

Tanong ng Bayan
NO NO TV TV
Ngayong Alas-10 Ng Gabi

Nakikinabang nga ba ang NPA sa party list?

Hiniling ni Sec. Norberto Gonzales na pigilan sa pagsali sa eleksyon ang ilang party-list group. Ang dahilan: mga kalaban umano ng gobyerno ang nasa likod ng mga grupo. Ginigisa nga ba sa sariling mantika ang ating pamahalaan? Alamin, mamayang alas-10 ng gabi, sa ABC.
(May replay bukas, alas-8 ng umaga.)

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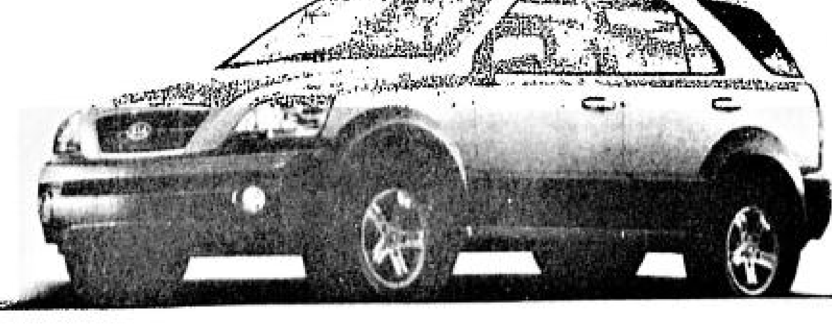

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SPORTS TV

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Compiled by L. Manguiat

SPORTS

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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

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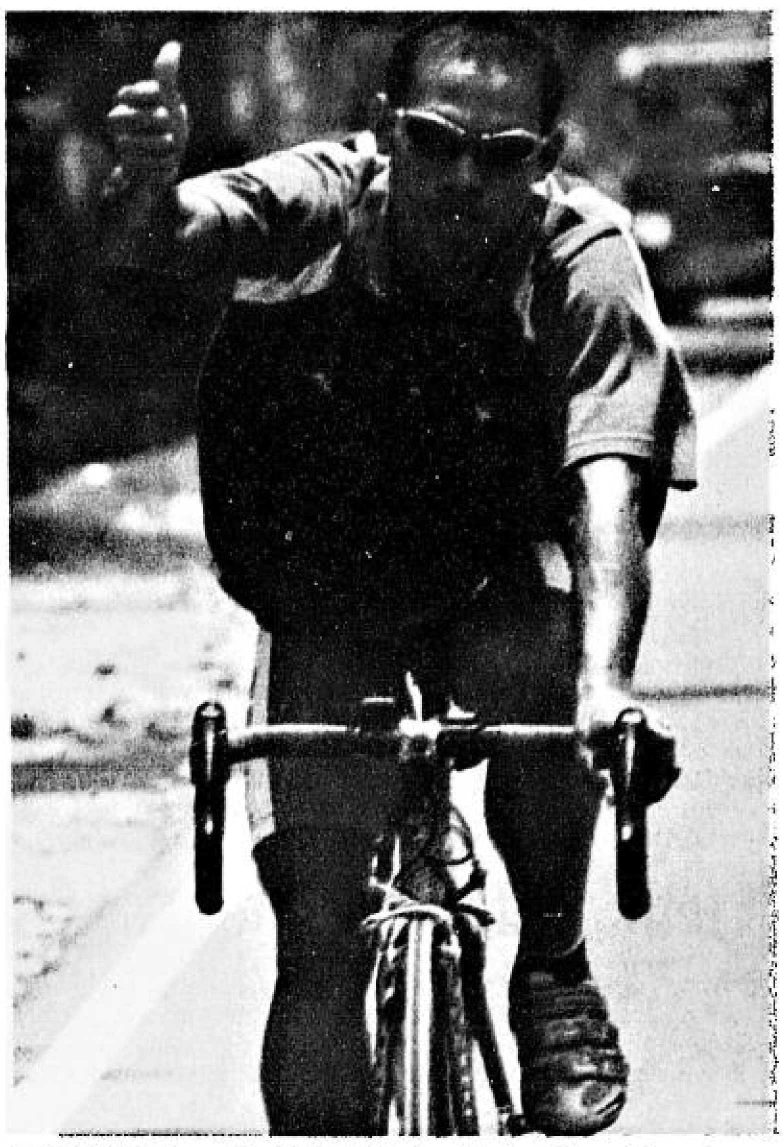


DEFENDING champion Quirimit flashes the thumbs-up sign as he warms up along the highway in Sorsogon. ROMY HOMILLADA

RP Youth clobbers Malaysia

Games Today
12:30 p.m.—Malaysia vs Thailand
3:00 p.m.—Singapore vs RP

LUCENA CITY—The RP-Burlington Youth Team started hot and finished even hotter to rout defending champion Malaysia, 84-44, yesterday in the opener of the 4th Southeast Junior Basketball Championship at the Quezon Convention Center here.

Banking on speed and a pressing defense, the Filipinos jumped to a 25-7 lead and never allowed the Malaysians to recover their bearing.

James Martinez, playing out of NCAA and national champion San Beda Red Cubs, led coach Johnny Tam's charges with 14 points while fellow Red Cub JR Taganas banged in 13 points on top of 13 rebounds.

Daryl Bautista and Dylan Ababou added 12 and 10 points, respectively, as the Filipinos bared their readiness to improve on their fourth place finish in the 2002 Kuala Lumpur edition won by the Malaysians.

"We surprised the Malaysians. We really prepared hard for them and, in fact, we even practiced this morning," said Tam.

The Malaysians managed to come to within 37-22, but a free throw by Kevin Astorga and a jumper by Ababou gave the Filipinos a 40-24 halftime bulge.

Singapore stunned last year's runner-up Thailand, 76-55, in the second game. The Singaporeans landed fifth and last in the Malaysia edition.

Scores:

RP-BURLINGTON 84—Martinez 14, Taganas 13, Bautista 12, Ababou 10, Antonio 7, Castro 6, Menor 5, Astorga 4, Calatayud 3, Sy 2, Medina 2.

MALAYSIA 44—Lee 12, Liew 8, Loh 8, Chin TW 4, Moh 3, Chan 2, Chin ZS 2, Koh 2.

Halftime: 40-24.

NCFP wants banks to freeze accounts

LAWYER Constantino Marcaida, National Chess Federation of the Philippines treasurer, yesterday ordered the freezing of accounts of the NCFP in two banks controlled by NCFP secretary general Sammy Estimo.

Acting on NCFP Board Resolution No. B-02, Marcaida wrote the Bank of Philippine Islands branches in Timog Avenue and Capitol Hills, Quezon City "for the said account to be frozen starting from your receipt (of this letter) hereof until further notice from the federation."

Marcaida also asked the banks to furnish the NCFP "with bank statements from the time the account was opened," based as stated in paragraph 4 of the said NCFP board resolution.

Caguioa, Adducul trade in the offing

Game Today (*Zamboanga City*)
5:30 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Coca-Cola

By Musong Castillo, *Contributor*

A BLOCKBUSTER trade involving five key players and the most popular team in the land will likely be consummated within the week.

Barangay Ginebra and Shell, teams struggling to stay afloat in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference, will likely seal the deal involving former Rookie of the Year Mark Caguioa and center Romel Adducul for three Turbo Chargers—Fil-Ams Billy Mamaril and Tony dela Cruz and former Letran hotshot Chris Calaguio.

A very reliable source confirmed to the INQUIRER that the two teams started talking about the trade yesterday.

The deal may come as a surprise to many, especially since Ginebra had been grooming Caguioa and Adducul as their cornerstones for the future.

Seemingly unaware of the impending trade, Dela Cruz hit two freethrows in the final 10.6 seconds as Shell nipped Talk 'N Text, 91-89, at the continuation of the eliminations at the Araneta Coliseum.

New import Jameel Watkins debuted in style for Shell, coming through with 23 points, seven blocks and five assists, despite being heckled by Talk 'N Text fans all game long. Because of his imposing presence, many thought Watkins was way past the 6-foot-8 limit.

"We've always wanted to find a legitimate inside presence, and we never had much luck in finding locals who could fill the bill," said Shell coach Leo Austria after notching his second win in three games, the fourth overall for Shell in 10 games.

The Phone Pals took a fourth loss also in 10 assignments and dropped out of a share of second spot.

PBL Games Today

Pasig Sports Center
2 p.m.—Montaña vs Viva-FEU
4 p.m.—Toyota-Letran vs Sunkist-UST

BEACH volleyball entries in action

All set for Boracay beach volleyball championship

TWENTY four teams from 19 schools all over the country flex their spiking prowess starting tomorrow when the eighth Nestea Beach Volley championship gets under way in Boracay.

Leading the Luzon challenge are De La Salle University, UP Diliman, College of St. Benilde and Far Eastern University on the men's side and College of St. Benilde, Adamson University, University of Baguio and Letran College in the women's division.

Visayas will be represented by the men's teams from Iloilo Doctor's College, University of San Jose-Recoletos, Foundation University and University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos and the women's teams are from the University of Visayas, Southwestern University, University of San Agustin and University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos.

Carrying the colors of Mindanao are Mindanao State University, University of Mindanao-Tagum, University of Mindanao and Ateneo de Davao for men, and University of Mindanao-Tagum, Ateneo de Davao, Holy Cross of Davao College and Mindanao State University in the women's division.

Winners in both the men's and women's division will receive a trophy and P50,000 worth of sports equipment. Second place winners will get P50,000 and a trophy while third placers will get 25,000 and a trophy.

For more details, call Fuentes Publicity Network Inc. at 893-9355 or 816-3109.

The tournament is sponsored by Speedo, Cebu Pacific, Mikasa, Coppertone, Shakey's, Smart Buddy, Power Plant Mall, Ayala Center Cebu, Le Soleil de Boracay and TGI Friday's.

Tanauan, N. Ecija share lead

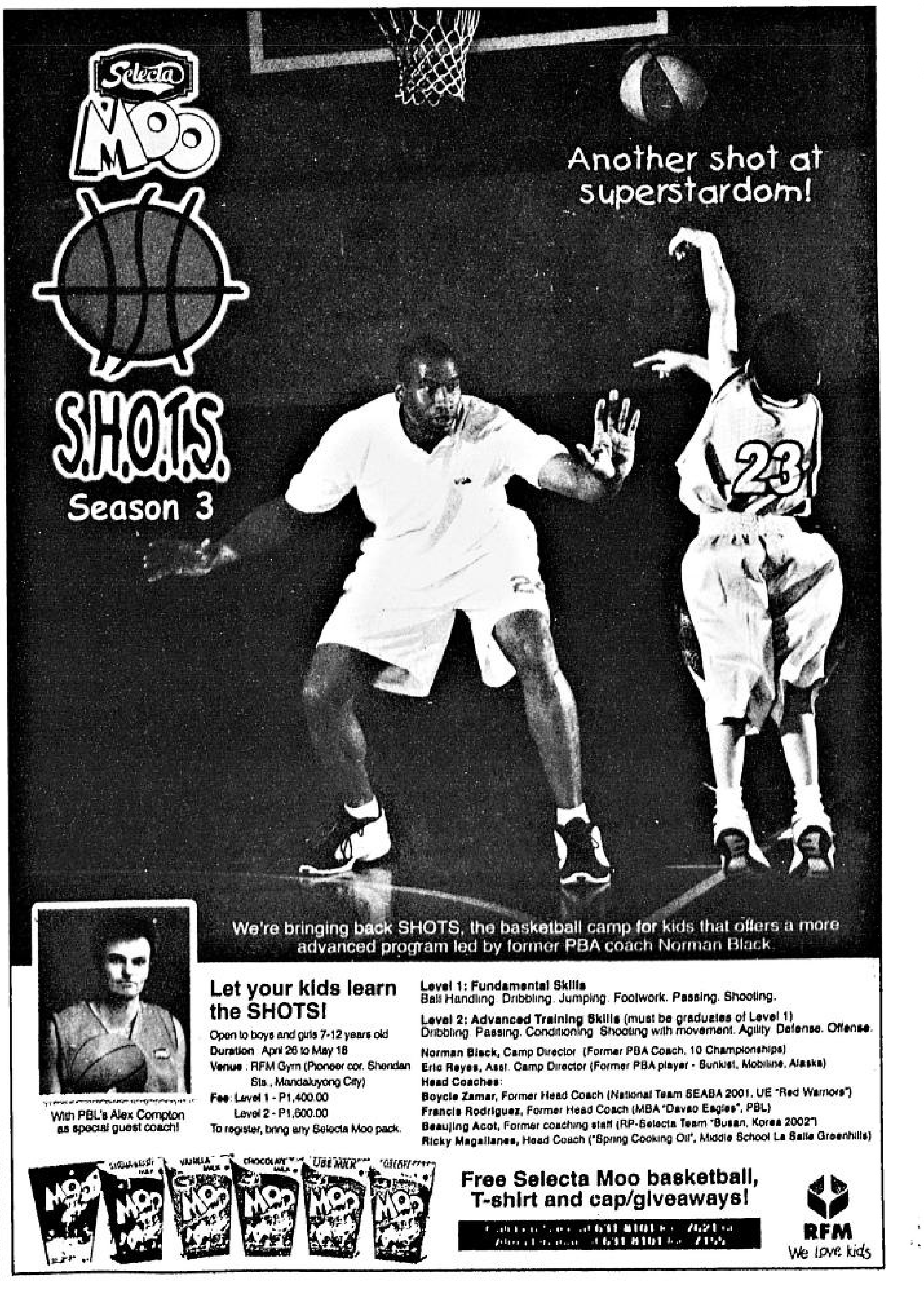
TANAUAN City, Batangas—Third baseman Elvin Masilum hit a three-run home run in the first inning to power Tanauan City past Quezon City, 29-6, yesterday in the Philippine Little League premier division at the Pagaspas baseball field here.

Tanauan's second straight victory in as many starts gave it a share of the lead with Nueva Ecija in Group C. Nueva Ecija routed San Pablo City, 16-1.

Bulacan, smarting from a 5-4 loss to Batangas earlier, dumped Isabela, 17-4, while Lipa City also broke into the win column with an 18-8 romp over Bataan.

In the big league division, pitcher Justin Zialzita led Illam to a 17-3 win over Makati.

Bacolod City, last year's World Series girls (13-14 years) titlist, whipped Cavite, 11-1, in softball.



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Level 2: Advanced Training Skills (must be graduates of Level 1)
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Norman Black, Camp Director (Former PBA Coach, 10 Championships)
Eric Reyes, Asst. Camp Director (Former PBA player - Sunkist, Mobiline, Alaska)
Head Coaches:
Boycie Zamar, Former Head Coach (National Team SEABA 2001, UE "Red Warriors")
Francis Rodriguez, Former Head Coach (MBA "Davao Eagles", PBL)
Beaujing Acot, Former coaching staff (RP-Selecta Team "Busan, Korea 2002")
Ricky Magallanes, Head Coach ("Spring Cooking Oil", Middle School La Salle Greenhills)

Free Selecta Moo basketball, T-shirt and cap/giveaways!

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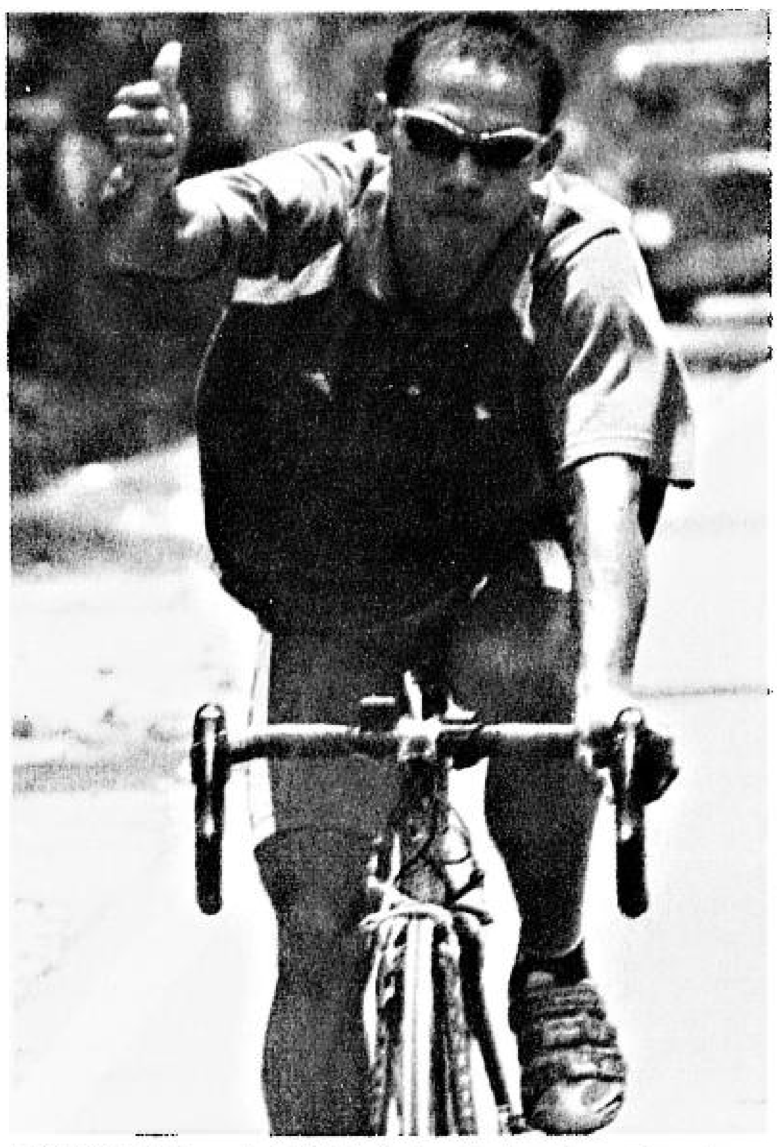

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3:00 p.m.—Singapore vs RP

LUCENA CITY—The RP-Burlington Youth Team started hot and finished even hotter to rout defending champion Malaysia, 84-44, yesterday in the opener of the 4th Southeast Junior Basketball Championship at the Quezon Convention Center here.

Banking on speed and a pressing defense, the Filipinos jumped to a 25-7 lead and never allowed the Malaysians to recover their bearing.

James Martinez, playing out of NCAA and national champion San Beda Red Cubs, led coach Johnny Tam's charges with 14 points while fellow Red Cub JR Taganas banged in 13 points on top of 13 rebounds.

Daryl Bautista and Dylan Ababou added 12 and 10 points, respectively, as the Filipinos bared their readiness to improve on their fourth place finish in the 2002 Kuala Lumpur edition won by the Malaysians.

"We surprised the Malaysians. We really prepared hard for them and, in fact, we even practiced this morning," said Tam.

The Malaysians managed to come to within 37-22, but a free throw by Kevin Astorga and a jumper by Ababou gave the Filipinos a 40-24 halftime bulge.

Singapore stunned last year's runner-up Thailand, 76-55, in the second game. The Singaporeans landed fifth and last in the Malaysia edition.

Scores:

RP-BURLINGTON 84—Martinez 14, Taganas 13, Bautista 12, Ababou 10, Antonio 7, Castro 6, Menor 5, Astorga 4, Calatayud 3, Sy 2, Medina 2.

MALAYSIA 44—Lee 12, Liew 8, Loh 8, Chin TW 4, Moh 3, Chan 2, Chin ZS 2, Koh 2.

Halftime: 40-24.

NCFP wants banks to freeze accounts

LAWYER Constantino Marcaida, National Chess Federation of the Philippines treasurer, yesterday ordered the freezing of accounts of the NCFP in two banks controlled by NCFP secretary general Sammy Estimo.

Acting on NCFP Board Resolution No. B-02, Marcaida wrote the Bank of Philippine Islands branches in Timog Avenue and Capitol Hills, Quezon City "for the said account to be frozen starting from your receipt (of this letter) hereof until further notice from the federation."

Marcaida also asked the banks to furnish the NCFP "with bank statements from the time the account was opened," based as stated in paragraph 4 of the said NCFP board resolution.

Caguioa, Adducul trade in the offing

Game Today (*Zamboanga City*)
5:30 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Coca-Cola

By Musong Castillo, *Contributor*

A BLOCKBUSTER trade involving five key players and the most popular team in the land will likely be consummated within the week.

Barangay Ginebra and Shell, teams struggling to stay afloat in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference, will likely seal the deal involving former Rookie of the Year Mark Caguioa and center Romel Adducul for three Turbo Chargers—Fil-Ams Billy Mamaril and Tony dela Cruz and former Letran hotshot Chris Calaguio.

A very reliable source confirmed to the INQUIRER that the two teams started talking about the trade yesterday.

The deal may come as a surprise to many, especially since Ginebra had been grooming Caguioa and Adducul as their cornerstones for the future.

Seemingly unaware of the impending trade, Dela Cruz hit two freethrows in the final 10.6 seconds as Shell nipped Talk 'N Text, 91-89, at the continuation of the eliminations at the Araneta Coliseum.

New import Jameel Watkins debuted in style for Shell, coming through with 23 points, seven blocks and five assists, despite being heckled by Talk 'N Text fans all game long. Because of his imposing presence, many thought Watkins was way past the 6-foot-8 limit.

"We've always wanted to find a legitimate inside presence, and we never had much luck in finding locals who could fill the bill," said Shell coach Leo Austria after notching his second win in three games, the fourth overall for Shell in 10 games.

The Phone Pals took a fourth loss also in 10 assignments and dropped out of a share of second spot.

PBL Games Today

Pasig Sports Center
2 p.m.—Montaña vs Viva-FEU
4 p.m.—Toyota-Letran vs Sunkist-UST

BEACH volleyball entries in action

All set for Boracay beach volleyball championship

TWENTY four teams from 19 schools all over the country flex their spiking prowess starting tomorrow when the eighth Nestea Beach Volley championship gets under way in Boracay.

Leading the Luzon challenge are De La Salle University, UP Diliman, College of St. Benilde and Far Eastern University on the men's side and College of St. Benilde, Adamson University, University of Baguio and Letran College in the women's division.

Visayas will be represented by the men's teams from Iloilo Doctor's College, University of San Jose-Recoletos, Foundation University and University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos and the women's teams are from the University of Visayas, Southwestern University, University of San Agustin and University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos.

Carrying the colors of Mindanao are Mindanao State University, University of Mindanao-Tagum, University of Mindanao and Ateneo de Davao for men, and University of Mindanao-Tagum, Ateneo de Davao, Holy Cross of Davao College and Mindanao State University in the women's division.

Winners in both the men's and women's division will receive a trophy and P50,000 worth of sports equipment. Second place winners will get P50,000 and a trophy while third placers will get 25,000 and a trophy.

For more details, call Fuentes Publicity Network Inc. at 893-9355 or 816-3109.

The tournament is sponsored by Speedo, Cebu Pacific, Mikasa, Coppertone, Shakey's, Smart Buddy, Power Plant Mall, Ayala Center Cebu, Le Soleil de Boracay and TGI Friday's.

Tanauan, N. Ecija share lead

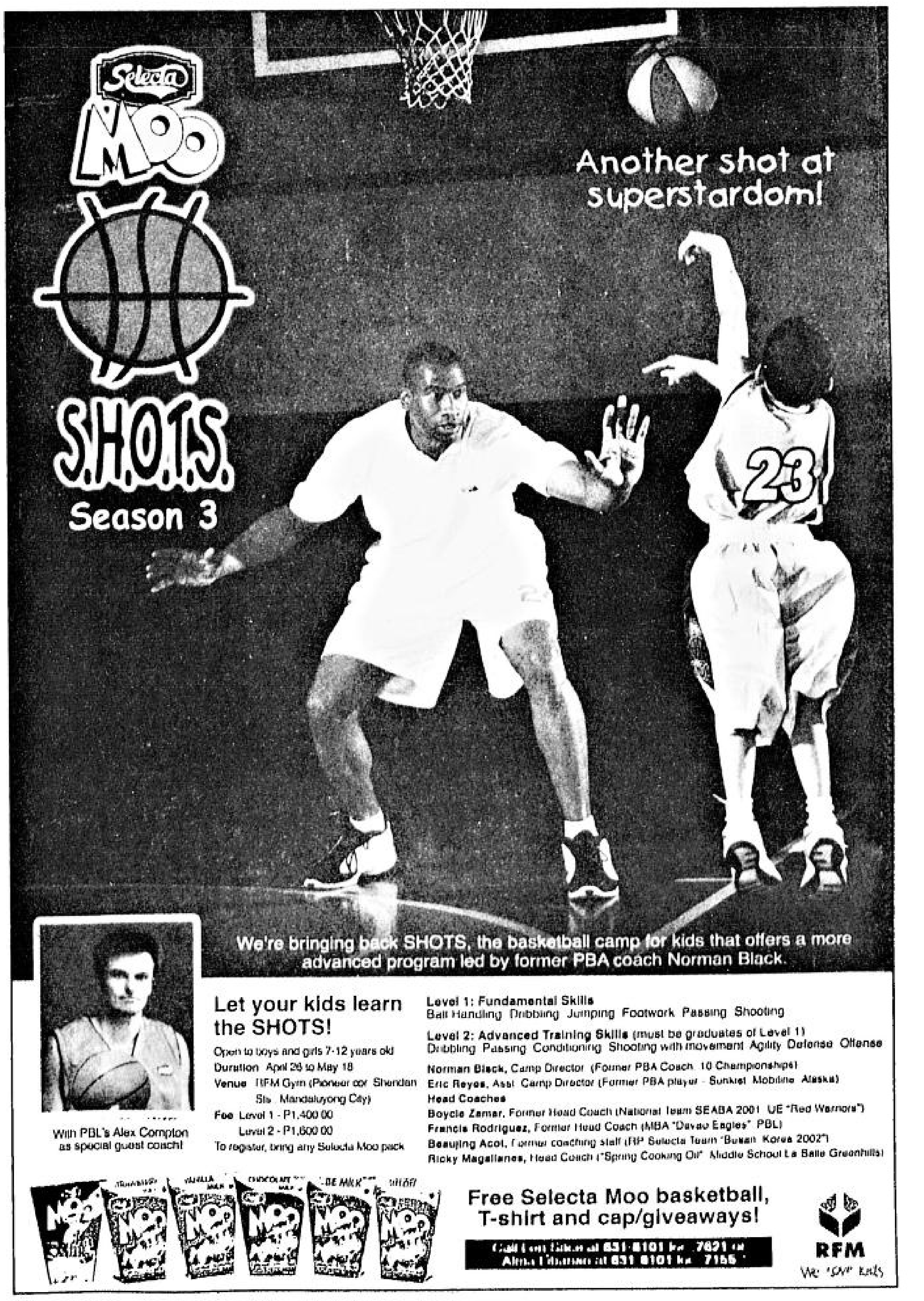
TANAUAN City, Batangas—Third baseman Elvin Masilum hit a three-run home run in the first inning to power Tanauan City past Quezon City, 29-6, yesterday in the Philippine Little League premier division at the Pagaspas baseball field here.

Tanauan's second straight victory in as many starts gave it a share of the lead with Nueva Ecija in Group C. Nueva Ecija routed San Pablo City, 16-1.

Bulacan, smarting from a 5-4 loss to Batangas earlier, dumped Isabela, 17-4, while Lipa City also broke into the win column with an 18-8 romp over Bataan.

In the big league division, pitcher Justin Zialzita led Illam to a 17-3 win over Makati.

Bacolod City, last year's World Series girls (13-14 years) titlist, whipped Cavite, 11-1, in softball.



Selecta Moo S.H.O.T.S. Season 3

Another shot at superstardom!

We're bringing back SHOTS, the basketball camp for kids that offers a more advanced program led by former PBA coach Norman Black.

With PBL's Alex Compton as special guest coach!

Let your kids learn the SHOTS!
Open to boys and girls 7-12 years old
Duration April 26 to May 18
Venue RFM Gym (Pioneer cor. Sheridan Sts. Mandaluyong City)
Fee Level 1 - P1,400.00
Level 2 - P1,600.00
To register, bring any Selecta Moo pack

Level 1: Fundamental Skills
Ball Handling Dribbling Jumping Footwork Passing Shooting
Level 2: Advanced Training Skills (must be graduates of Level 1)
Dribbling Passing Conditioning Shooting with movement Agility Defense Offense
Norman Black, Camp Director (Former PBA Coach 10 Championships)
Eric Reyes, Asst. Camp Director (Former PBA player - Sunkist Mobiline Alaska)
Head Coaches
Boycie Zamar, Former Head Coach (National Team SEABA 2001 UE "Red Warriors")
Francis Rodriguez, Former Head Coach (MBA "Davao Eagles" PBL)
Beaujing Acot, Former coaching staff (RP Selecta Team "Busan Korea 2002")
Ricky Magallanes, Head Coach ("Spring Cooking Oil" Middle School La Salle Greenhills)

Free Selecta Moo basketball, T-shirt and cap/giveaways!
[illegible] at 631-8101 loc. 7621 or
[illegible] at 631 8101 loc. 7155

RFM
We 'luv' kids

Bonds passes Mays with No. 661

661
SBC PARK
25

BONDS circles the bases after hitting his 661st career home run. AP

SAN FRANCISCO—Barry Bonds outdid his godfather—and he has just two more hitters to chase.

Bonds hit his 661st homer Tuesday, passing Willie Mays to take sole possession of third place on baseball's career list.

In the seventh inning, Bonds hit a pitch from Milwaukee right-hander Ben Ford over the right-field arcade at SBC ballpark and into nearby McCovey Cove, reaching the water for the second straight day. The San Francisco slugger hit his 660th on Monday to nearly the same spot.

Only Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron still loom above Bonds. If Bonds maintains his unbelievable pace of the past four seasons, he could pass Ruth's 714 homers early next season.

Bonds has said he can't imagine passing Aaron, who hit 755 homers. But there seems to be nothing Bonds can't do.

"I've never seen a better player in my life," said former Giants third baseman Matt Williams, who threw out the first pitch at Tuesday night's game. "I don't think anybody changes the course of a game like he does."

Bonds, who will turn 40 in July, hit 213 homers in the previous four seasons, including a major league-record 73 in 2001.

He hit his 659th on opening day in Houston—but as he usually does, Bonds waited until returning home to San Francisco to hit his most historic homers.

Bonds didn't really celebrate his 661st, calmly dropping his bat and circling the bases as the sell-out crowd stood and roared. *AP*

Complete results:

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Navratilova loses again

CHARLESTON, South Carolina—Martina Navratilova lost her second bid to win her first singles match on US soil in 10 years when she was beaten by Amy Frazier, 6-4, 6-4, at the Family Circle Cup on Tuesday. Navratilova, issued a wild card entry into a tournament she's won four times, played Frazier for the first time since 1994. *AP*

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SPORTS
0163

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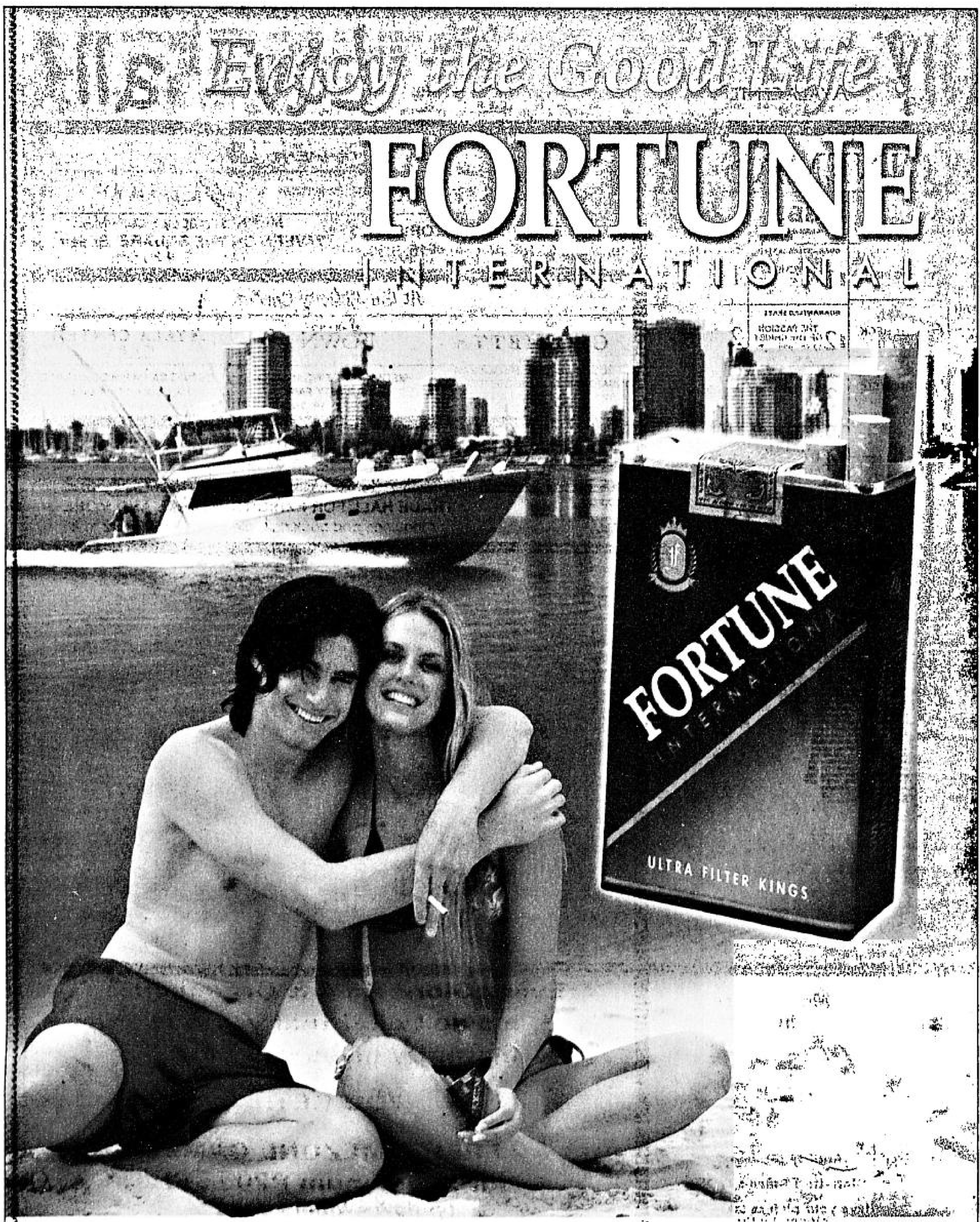

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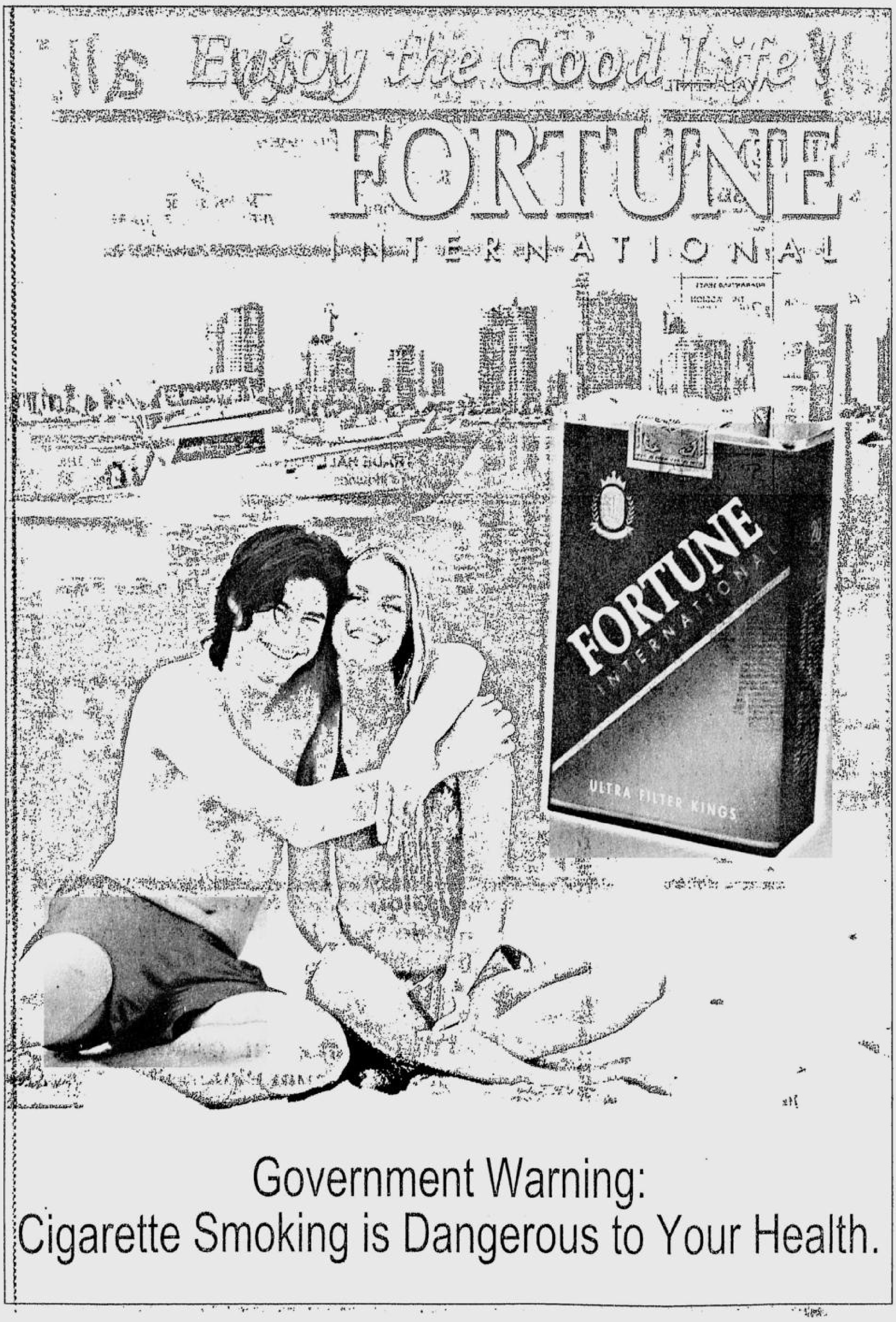

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Archers to train in China, Korea

By Dennis Eroa

CAPISTRANO

LA SALLE'S Green Archers are going to shoot arrows not within the confines of the Enrique M. Razon Sports Center but amid the cool weather of Seoul, Beijing and Shanghai.

In an exclusive interview, La Salle deputy team manager Manny Salgado yesterday confirmed that the Archers, UAAP kings from 1998-2001, will leave next month for Korea and China to play against highly-rated teams.

"ICTSI-La Salle took a leave of absence in the PBL due to this foreign stint," Salgado said. La Salle will go against the famous Yonsei and Korea Universities.

The trip is a joint effort between ICTSI chair and president Ricky Razon and La Salle manager Terry Capistrano, president of TMS Ship Agencies.

After losing its title to Ateneo in 2002, rookie-laden La Salle made the Final Four last year.

Salgado said coach Franz Pumaren and deputy coaches Gie Abanilla and Jack Santiago will lead the 18-man strong La Salle team.

While saying that making the Final Four remains the Archers target, Salgado said the Korean and Chinese trip will provide wonderful opportunities for the team to further strengthen their ties and probe their weaknesses.

Among the La Salle stars joining the trip are bullstrong Jerwin Gaco, Marc Cardona, Joseph Yeo, rookie of the year Joseph Casio, Tyrone Tang, Ryan Araña, PJ Walsham, Mike Gavino, Jun Jun Cabatu, Paul Chua, Mark Benitez, Cholo Villanueva and JR Aquino.

Also joining the trip are rookies Lope Juban III, who hails from La Salle-Zobel, former Mapua junior standout Michael Galinato, John Foronda and Maeor Hoffer, a 6-foot-4 native of Puerto Galera.

Piercing Percy

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THOMAS Wolfe said, "You can't go home again."

Can you believe that?

I say fools are those who agree with Thomas Wolfe.

If you think you can't go home again, then you can't go home again.

You made good in the city, then you think you can't retrace your roots anymore, fine. That's your choice. You are what you choose in much the same way that you are what you eat.

Look, you eat what you eat because that's what you've been eating at home from childhood to adolescence. That changes a bit when 1) you marry, 2) you go abroad or 3) you build a home in a place whose customs and traditions, if not vegetation and water tributaries, are the exact opposite of what you've grown up with.

If you say you can't go home again, then you will also say you can't eat what your parents used to feed you?

It just doesn't wash.

You are a boxer and you think you can't win your next fight, then you can't win your next fight. You are then not of the Muhammad Ali type whose philosophy has always been that nothing is impossible.

You are what you think. You are a winner, then you are a winner. You are a loser, then you are a loser. Which means that even if GMA loses to FPJ on May 10, she can always claim she won.

You are what you decide who you are. You decide you are a cook when you are a waiter, then you are a cook. You decide you are a basketball coach when you are a basketball player, then you are a basketball coach.

I am into this "coming home, knowing yourself" thing in light of the arrival yesterday of Percy Della, who left Cuyapo for California in not so much the same way that I left Mangatarem for Manila.

I left Mangatarem with my self, not with my soul.

Anyway, Percy Della it was who co-founded in the '70s the Ram Boys of Philippine sportswriting. Ram as in rambunctious. With Percy around, we were never short of the naughtiness of our youth, the haughtiness at times of our make-believe mid-life marked, if not marred, by streaks of wild perorations.

In those so-called halcyon days when curfew was synonymous with the much-dreaded martial law years of the unlamented Marcos era, Percy's elegant prose were propelled by vibrant verbs. Young as he was, the depth of Percy's pieces usually tugged at the heart that his crisp style would soon become the envy of even the established sportswriters back then.

It was just too bad that Percy would trade his rustic Cuyapo for rusty California. Philippine sportswriting's loss was Sacramento's gain.

Cuyapo, that town of Nueva Ecija that is as old as time itself, is not just Percy Della, though. Cuyapo is also former PBA basketball great JB Yango and the well-loved Marcos ally Simplicio Taguiam. And yes, Robin Padilla, too—the former "bad boy" of Philippine movies.

In a recent letter to me, Percy Della said: "Places or events may remain constant in the mind, but a thief called time changes everything else in reality."

Notice the poetic touch?

Said he further: "Yes some parts of the Cuyapo that I remember, or parts of Mangaterem that you remember, survive—enough that our towns still feel like home. But for the most part, gone are the old stomping grounds, the landmarks, buildings and worst, even the trees. A more telling loss is the number of unforgettable years we spent in those rural gems of hometowns, and the people we first wove our dreams around and plotted our futures with."

Though he does not openly admit it, Percy Della has not really left home. Listen:

"Near the end of summer or even winter each year, multitudes of us, lonely souls with varied idiosyncrasies, likes and dislikes, gather together with a common goal: To talk about the old hometown and the past.

"But when such affairs wind down, the recollections stop. The spell is broken and reality comes back into focus. It was nice to relive the times of our youth. We are adults again, and the laughter from long ago fades away."

Percy Della, away for 28 years, is back mainly to touch base again with us, his fellow sportswriters. But then, there's yet another reason: the fiesta of his cuddly Cuyapo.

He wrote: "... in the four winds, where ever the Pinoy diaspora has a sizeable community, dinner dances are held year in and year out. Such events are everyone's excuse to dress up real nice, to come and be seen and party once in a blue moon. (Al, the fiesta is the mother of all peregrinations about hometowns.)"

And yet, Percy argued soulfully: "Yet, we vow to meet again the very next year to peel off the bright side of what Shakespeare describes as the 'heaviness' of the past."

Now does Percy Della believe in Thomas Wolfe's "You can't go home again" thing?

"Yes, Thomas Wolfe was right," he said. "You can't go home again."

And yet, he concluded: "But who cares?"

SeeMall! AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA & GREENBELT · ALABANG TOWN CENTER · AYALA CENTER CEBU LoveMall!

AYALA CINEMAS

	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST	TAKING LIVES	TAKING LIVES	GUARANTEED SEATS PAYCHECK 1.50, 4 15, 6 40, 9 05, 11 30	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
2	PETER PAN	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST	PETER PAN	GUARANTEED SEATS THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST 12 40, 3 20, 6.00, 8 40, 11 20	DIABLO
3	TAKING LIVES	PETER PAN	GUARANTEED SEATS THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST [illegible]	GUARANTEED SEATS PETER PAN 1:10, 3 30, 5 50, 8 10, 10:30	50 FIRST DATES
4	TWISTED	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	UNINVITED	GUARANTEED SEATS TWISTED 1 05, 3 10, 5 15, 7:20, 9 25, 11 30	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
5	PAYCHECK		BIG FISH	GUARANTEED SEATS TAKING LIVES 2 00, 4 20, 6 40, 9 00, 11 20	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
6			PAYCHECK		
7			TWISTED		

	GB1 GREENBELT 1
1	PETER PAN 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
2	BIG FISH 1:30, 4 10, 6 50, 9 30

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GLORIETTA	GREENBELT
HARD ROCK CAFÉ, GLORIETTA 3 featuring SERENITY (April 15, 9:30om)	MERK'S: Happy Hour - MAE TAVERN ON THE SQUARE: Streamline (April 15, 9:30 pm)

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
NICKELODEON'S SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS: BIKINI BOTTOM BASH April 15 to 17 - 3:00pm and 5:00pm, April 18 - 1:00pm 3:00pm 5:00 pm	MEDI MARKETING HEALTH & BEAUTY FAIR April 16 to 18, 2004	BURAG SA HARING LUNGSOD (A Concert for Peace) April 15, 2004

REPERTORY'S CAUGHT IN THE NET
April 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25 & 30

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OPENS APRIL 14 ONLY AT
GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 1 CINEMAS

TIM BURTON'S
BIG FISH

A visually stunning and an emotionally haunting human epic, BIG FISH is a majestic motion picture that delves into a fabled relationship between a father & his son.

"A brilliantly fantastical film from inventive director Tim Burton...BIG FISH ends up hooking a viewer emotionally as few movies have this year. Don't miss it."
— PEOPLE MAGAZINE

AYALA CINEMAS
LoveMall!

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

Ewan McGregor
Danny De Vito
Jessica Lange
BIG FISH
AN ADVENTURE AS BIG AS LIFE ITSELF.
COLUMBIA PICTURES

SpongeBob SquarePants
BIKINI BOTTOM BASH
Catch Nickelodeon's SpongeBob SquarePants LIVE as he surfaces in the Philippines for his first-ever musical extravaganza event!

AYALA CENTER
April 15 - 3pm and 5pm
April 16 - 3pm and 5pm
April 17 - 3pm and 5pm
April 18 - 1pm, 3pm and 5pm
Glorietta Activity Center
Customer Service hotline
[illegible]

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
April 23 - 11am, 3pm and 6pm
April 24 - 11am, 3pm and 6pm
April 25 - 11am, 3pm and 6pm
Activity Center
Customer Service hotline [illegible]

AYALA CENTER CEBU
April 30 - 11am, 3pm and 7pm
May 1 - 11am, 3pm and 6pm
May 2 - 11am, 3pm and 6pm
Activity Center
Customer Service hotline [illegible]

AYALA MALLS
LoveMall!

Stargazing at Glorietta 1 Cinemas
Masikip sa dibdib
Boobita Rose

Meet & Greet the cast of Masikip sa dibdib

Special Guest:
THE VIVA HOT MEN

April 16 (Friday), 2004
7:00 PM
Glorietta 1 Cinema Lobby

Have your picture taken & signed by the stars!
Plus win exciting prizes!

MOVIE OPENS APRIL 14 AT AYALA CINEMAS

VIVA
Ayala Cinemas
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Every Glorietta 4 & Greenbelt 3 movie ticket that you buy instantly gives you more!

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2 FREE TIMEZONE GAMES
for a minimum P20 load
(yellow swipers only)

A FREE GIFT FROM FOOD CHOICES
for a single minimum purchase of P120

AYALA CINEMAS · FOOD CHOICES · TIMEZONE

Customer Service text hotline: 0917-[illegible]
Customer Service text hotline: Glorietta - 752-7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 757-4860; from 11am to 12mn

Alabang Town Center - 842-2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231-5342 loc 324

Ayala Cinema Links: for screening times call [illegible]. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting [illegible] to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart). Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design

Tours, Leisure & Chow

cmadamba@inquirer.com.ph
897-8808 local 209 and 238

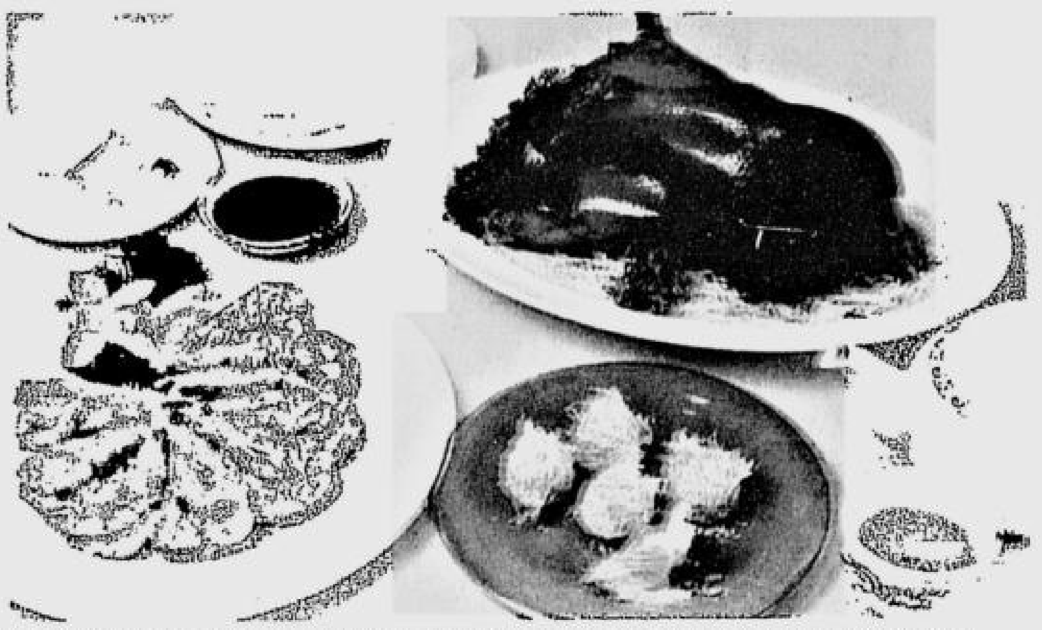
Tin Hau buffet offers regional culinary treasures from China

TIN HAU, Mandarin Oriental's premier Chinese restaurant, invites food lovers to explore the richness of Chinese cuisine in its new buffets featuring gastronomical masterpieces from China's main culinary regions. The country's vast geography is reflected in its diverse culinary heritage, which is dominated by as many as 9 regional influences, each possessing a distinct style and flavor.

Tin Hau's buffet is a fitting introduction to the interesting differences and nuances in flavors and cooking methods from one region to another. From the fresh, delicate and lightly seasoned Cantonese dishes which are mostly steamed, basted or stir-fried; to the intensely flavored Szechuan dishes that are commonly deep-fried and laden with sauce; or the oilier and sweeter Shanghai dishes that are either stewed or braised, there is something for everyone to discover and relish.

Tin Hau chef Andy Ng and his team have prepared daily menus proffering the varied regions' sumptuous specialities. Among these are: Canton-style roasted duck and Szechuan-style marinated ox tripe with hot chili oil for appetizers; and for main courses, Hong Kong-style pan-fried grouper with sweet and sour sauce; Peking-style deep-fried minced pork ball in brown sauce; Shanghai-style pan-fried bean curd with crabmeat sauce; and Fookien *miswa*, to name some.

Tin Hau's regional buffet, offered at P738++ for adults and P398++ for children during lunch and at P788++ for adults and P418++ for children during dinner, is served at lunch, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Sunday to Friday (until 3 p.m. on Sundays), and is now also offered at dinner from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. every night except Sunday. For reservations, call 750-8888 local 2422.



PEKING Duck, Fried prawns with tomato and chili sauce (Peking style), and Taro puff with custard cream.

Where to Stay Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

New World Renaissance Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777
www.marriott.com

Makati Shangri-La Hotel
Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 813-8888/ Fax 813-5499
www.shangri-la.com

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Evercrest Golf Club Resort, Inc.
Km. 72 Batulao, Nasugbu, Batangas
Tel. (02) 712-9293 to 98
Fax (02) 712-9299
Manila Sales Office 733-3822/733-9955

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

Intercontinental Manila
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

ASTORIA PLAZA
15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District,
Pasig City 1600
Tel 687-1111 Fax 910-0370
Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com

City Garden Hotel-Makati
Makati Ave., cor. Kalayaan St., Makati City
Tel. (02) 899-1111Fax. (02) 899-1415
Email: makati:citygardenhotels.com

Executive Plaza Hotel
1630 A Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel 523-1000 /fax 525-8979
Email: sales@executiveplazahotel.com
www.executiveplazahotel.com

Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700 to 03
Fax (074) 446-0704
Email: hotelveniz@skyinet.net
www.hotelveniz.com

Hotel Supreme
113 Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-2011 to 18 / Fax. (074) 442-2855

Skyrise Hotel
18 Dominican Road, Baguio City
Tel (074) 445-6834 to 36 /fax (074) 443-3897

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

Grand Regal Hotel Davao
J. P. Laurel St., Lanang, Davao City
Tel (382) 235-0888 / (382) 234-3858

Taal Vista Hotel
Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (046) 413-1000/Fax. (046) 413-1225

The Peninsula Manila Hotel
Cor. Ayala Ave. & Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 810-3456/ Fax 815-4825

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com.ph

Garden Plaza Hotel & Suites
1030 Belen St., Paco, Manila
Tel. (632) 522-4835/ fax (632) 522-4840

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (6332) 340-4888/fax (6332) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/fax (082) 225-1888

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza
Naguilian cor. Asin Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 447-8888 to 93/ (074) 447-8895 to 98
Fax. (074) 447-0494

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9970 to 71/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704
Email: goldenpineholte@skyinet.net

Somerset Salcedo, Makati
H.V. dela Costa St., cor. L.P. Levista St., Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
Tel. 888-6668 Fax: 888-6655

Somerset Millennium, Makati
No. 104 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, 1229
Makati City
Tel. 888-0505 Fax: 812-7721

Somerset Olympia, Makati
No. 7912, Makati Ave., 1220 Makati City
Tel. 812-1010 Fax: 818-8254

'MY EASTER GARDEN' DRAWING CONTEST WINNER

FIRST prize winner (Category A) of Dusit Hotel Nikko's 'My Easter Garden' drawing contest, Maria Dia Kaye Ramos (center) is all smiles after receiving her prize from Café restaurant manager Bobby Dela Cruz (right). The contest was part of the hotel's 'Easter Wonderland' activities that also featured a magician, parlor games for kids and families, and the exciting family egg hunt. Prizes of the drawing contest included products from Learning is Fun, Richwell Trading, Kidz Station, Coralyn and Timezone. Also shown is Dianne Amolong.

EMPEROR COURT PRESENTS 'SEA AND EARTH'

New World Renaissance Hotel's premiere Cantonese restaurant Emperor Court presents 'Sea and Earth' for the months of March and April. A special a la carte menu offered for lunch and dinner tempts diners with first-class creations prepared by Chinese Executive Chef Ken Chiu and his brigade of expert chefs. Be one of the privileged to sample first-class preparations of two stellar delicacies in the Chinese food world—namely Shark's Fin and Abalone. Try sumptuous dishes such as Braised Supreme Shark's Fin in Brown Sauce; Double Supreme Shark's Fin in Sea Whelk Chicken Soup; Stewed Whole Abalone with Black Mushroom in Oyster Sauce; Stewed Whole Baby Abalone in Oyster Sauce with Steamed Shark's Fin Stuffed in Shrimp, among others. It's heaven on earth! Emperor Court is open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for lunch and 6 to 10 p.m. for dinner. For more information and reservations, call 811-6888 ext. 3338.

COCKTAIL OF THE MONTH

'Kaleidoscope Skies' liven up the summer season with a refreshing, sundry blend of jackfruit puree, honey dew and calamansi, spiced with a splash of rum, triple sec, and a dash of sugar syrup, at P180 net per glass and P300 net per glass for room service only. It is available from April 1 to 30, in all restaurants and bars.

The 1st Annual Bellevue Cup triumphs

FROM left, Bellevue assistant executive manager Patrick Chan, HSBC's Warner Manning, Bellevue general manager Cyndy Tan-Jarabata, Chevron Texaco's Karl Cottrell, RPJ Development's Johnny Chan, Cypress' Don Mika and former Shell Philippines chair Oscar Reyes.

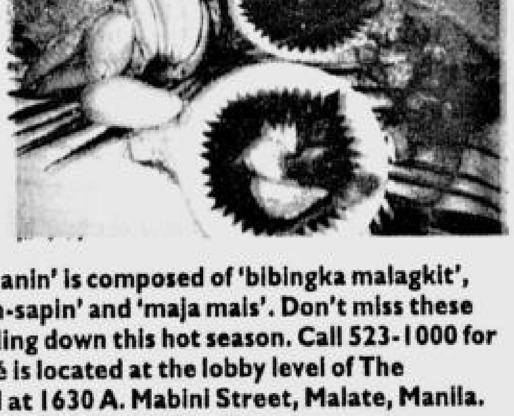
THE BELLEVUE Hotel's 1st Annual Bellevue Cup successfully filled the Alabang Country Club with over 150 eager golfers from all over the metropolis. The tournament, which promoted healthy fun and camaraderie among Alabang influentials and the hotel's loyal friends, also raised funds for the Ospital ng Muntinlupa.

"The astounding success of The 1st Annual Bellevue Cup is dedicated to all those who helped make The Bellevue the premier social and business destination in the southern Metro Manila area. It is from their unwavering support and friendship that we draw strength and inspiration," Cyndy Tan-Jarabata, The Bellevue general manager, said.

The whole-day tournament commenced with a ceremonial tee-off led by executives Johnny Chan, Karl Cottrell, Warner Manning, Donald Mika and Oscar Reyes. Choice raffle prizes like round-trip tickets to New York and digital cameras were given away during the awarding program where sultry Patricia Javier also entertained the players.

The 1st Annual Bellevue Cup champions included Dave Floro for Low Gross and Beb Longa for Low Net. Class A winners were champion Javier Quintos, 1st runner up Hector Rivera, 2nd runner-up Boying Soriano, 3rd runner-up Danny Sarmiento and 4th runner-up Francis Laurel. For Class B, the awardees included champion Arnel Manganti, 1st runner-up Bong Guatno, 2nd runner-up Rolly Enriquez, 3rd runner-up Joe Ong and 4th runner up Donald Mika. Nearest to the Pin winner Banjo Madella, Longest Drive winner Pico Ching and Most Accurate Drive winner Joey Solis also took home prizes.

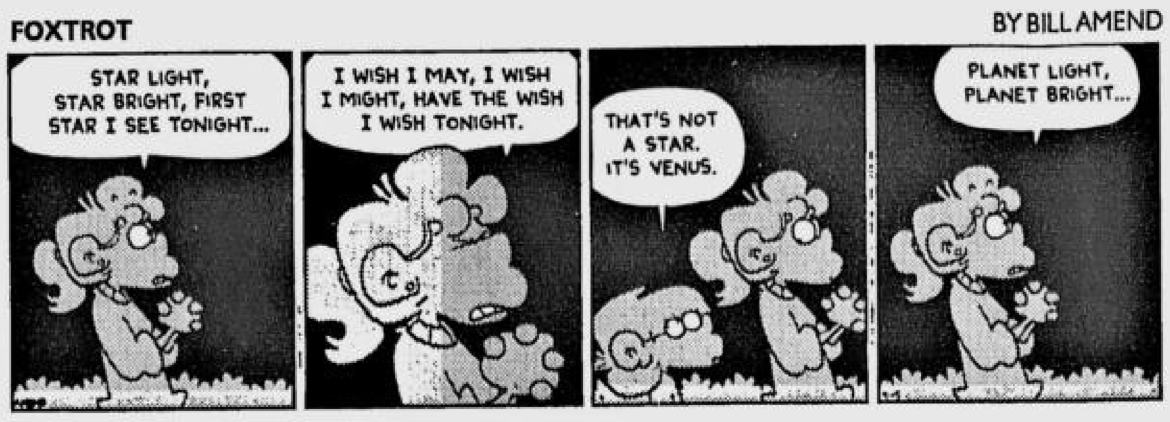
Sponsors included the North America Construction Inc, Northwest Airlines, Volvo, Globe Telecom, IPVG, Save More Supermarket, Chinatrust Commercial Banking Corp, Transnational Diversified Group, American Express Travel, Las Palmas Furniture, Pisanti Golf, Arctic Vodka, The Heritage Park, Versia Inc and Gillette.



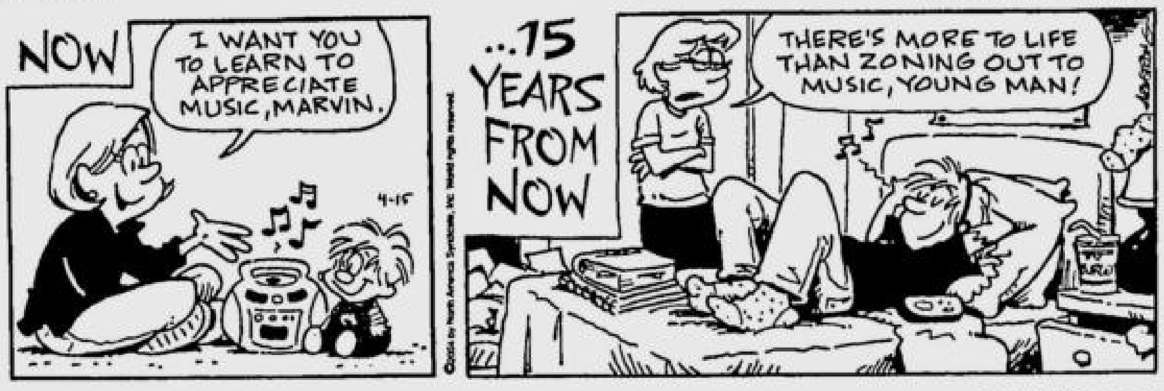
RIO BAR CAFE SUMMER COOLER SPECIALS

This summer, try Rio Bar Café's sweet temptations. Choose from Halohalo Special and Native Kakanin or Mais con Yelo and Native Kakanin for only P155 and P140, respectively. The 'kakanin' is composed of 'bibingka malagkit', 'suman sa lbos', 'sapin-sapin' and 'maja mais'. Don't miss these perfect treats for cooling down this hot season. Call 523-1000 for inquiries. Rio Bar Café is located at the lobby level of The Executive Plaza Hotel at 1630 A. Mabini Street, Malate, Manila. These specials are only available this April.

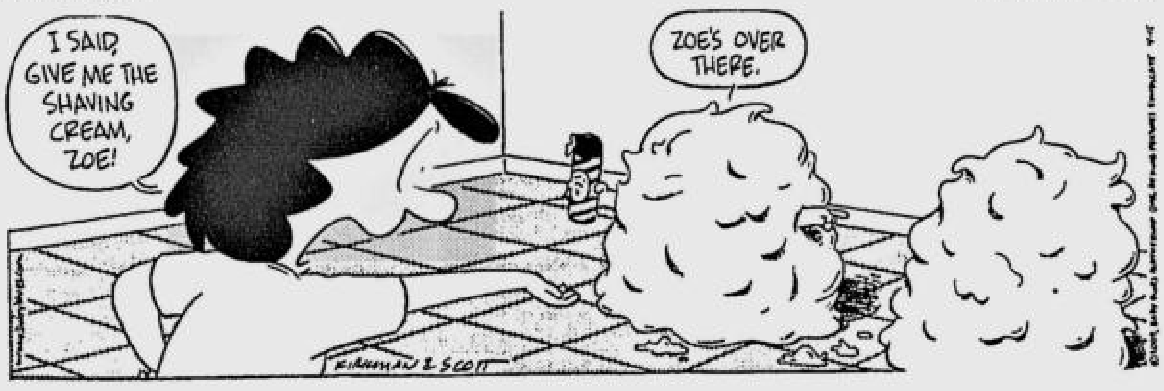
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT, FIRST STAR I SEE TONIGHT...
I WISH I MAY, I WISH I MIGHT, HAVE THE WISH I WISH TONIGHT.
THAT'S NOT A STAR. IT'S VENUS.
PLANET LIGHT, PLANET BRIGHT...

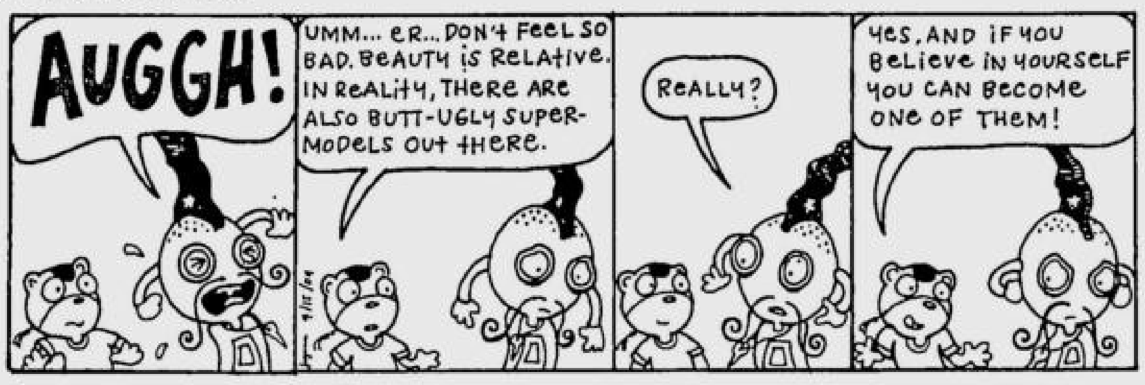
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


NOW
I WANT YOU TO LEARN TO APPRECIATE MUSIC, MARVIN.
4-15
...15 YEARS FROM NOW
THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN ZONING OUT TO MUSIC, YOUNG MAN!

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


I SAID, GIVE ME THE SHAVING CREAM, ZOE!
ZOE'S OVER THERE.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AUGGH!
UMM... ER... DON'T FEEL SO BAD. BEAUTY IS RELATIVE. IN REALITY, THERE ARE ALSO BUTT-UGLY SUPER-MODELS OUT THERE.
REALLY?
YES, AND IF YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF YOU CAN BECOME ONE OF THEM!

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a fine mind, and you are organized. Because of this, you constantly create structure around you. You are involved in everything. You want to initiate and trigger change. You succeed because you are not only intelligent, you're practical and down-to-earth. Expect increased solitude this year to study and learn something important.

Birthdate of: Emma Watson, actress; Emma Thompson, actress; Leonardo da Vinci, artist/inventor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): With the Sun and Mercury in your sign now, you're really out there! That's why you need a little bit of rest. Sneak away for some quiet time if you can.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You feel kind-hearted toward a friend today. You know that if you offer a sympathetic ear or a shoulder to cry on, it will be a big help to someone.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Be a little careful today. Whatever you do will be noticed. Without even being aware of it, you're in the public eye more than usual. (Be discreet.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The Moon is in a favorable sign for you today. It will help you do work with publishing, higher education and legal matters, as well as making travel plans .

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a good day to do research and look for new solutions to old problems. You have the mind of a sleuth today. Go dig up some answers!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Be extra-patient with partners and close friends today. Somebody wants something from you. (This person might simply want to be heard.) Whatever the case, be receptive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a good day to buy items connected with hygiene, cleanliness and your health. Shop for vitamins, soaps, toothpaste and that sort of thing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This can be a fun day, especially related to the arts, movies, the theater and playful activities with children. Let your hair down. Live a little!

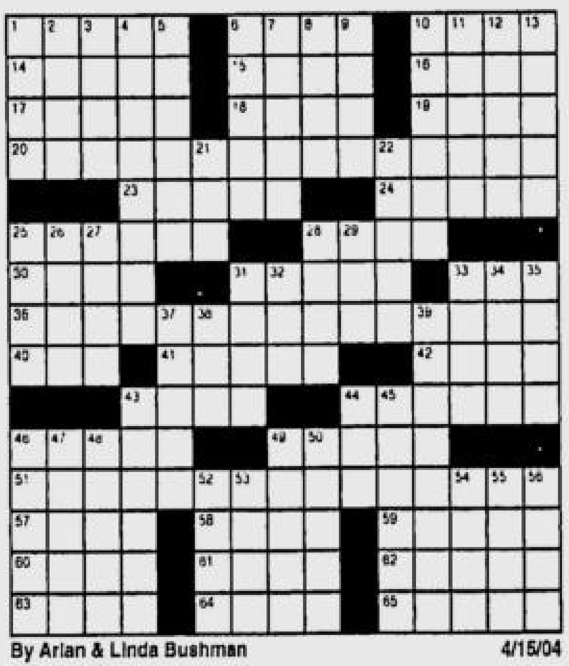
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Conversations with a parent (or a boss) might be significant today. Keep your ears open. Someone wants to tell you something.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a busy day for appointments! Short trips, shopping, buying and selling, negotiating plus talking to siblings fill your time. This is not a day to sit at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a good day for shopping. However it's a poor time to buy cars, trucks or any form of ground transportation. It's also a poor time to buy computers.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): The Moon is in your sign today. This is the perfect day to renew old job offers or explore places where you worked before.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Arlan & Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL
4/15/04

ACROSS
1 Springs
6 Fit
10 "__, poor Yorick"
14 Lace cap
15 Iditarod ride
16 Brass band member
17 "Truly __ Deeply"
18 Dye
19 Spoken
20 Start of an Evan Esar quip
23 Office notes
24 Made further remarks
25 Manage to get by
28 Gear teeth
30 Track shape
31 Fido's warning
33 Goddess of the harvest
36 Part 2 of quip
40 Sheepish she
41 Cast a ballot
42 Move like The Blob
43 Effervesce
44 Con artist's mark
46 Desert spring
49 Entity
51 End of quip
57 All aflutter
58 Ring signal
59 Zodiac sign
60 Toy with a tail
61 Largest Aleutian Island
62 Downward measurement
63 Part of P.A.
64 Flue accumulation
65 Borden's spokes-cow

DOWN
1 Tibetan monk
2 Yikes!
3 Ray of "Battle Cry"
4 Full tilt
5 Fashioned
6 Jetsons' dog
7 Total delight
8 Olin of "Alias"
9 1999 Ron Howard satire
10 In conflict
11 Gruesome
12 Humiliate
13 Three-bean or Waldorf
21 Latin primer word
22 Front half of a griffin
25 Manner
26 Declare openly
27 Crinkly cabbage
28 Firewood unit
29 Acknowledge
31 Saxophonist Stan
32 "Norma __"
33 Shawm's descendant
34 Author of "The Godfather"
35 Anna of "Nana"
37 Dispatch boat
38 Peri on "Frasier"
39 Greeting-card verse
43 Squirm
44 Slapstick missile
45 Cross a border
46 Honshu port
47 Sponsorship
48 Assigned places
49 Silvers' TV role
50 Renown
52 Business degs.
53 Presidential rejection
54 Splits roughly
55 Successor of Ramses I
56 Court legend Arthur

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

D	O	R	M	■	L	O	G	O	S	■	S	M	U	G
A	R	E	A	■	S	W	E	P	T	■	L	A	N	A
D	E	A	R	H	U	N	T	E	R	■	O	S	T	E
A	O	R	T	A	■	■	G	R	A	Y	W	A	I	L
■	■	■	E	R	A	T	O	■	P	U	P	I	L	S
S	P	I	N	A	C	H	■	O	S	L	O	■	■	■
A	L	S	■	S	M	E	W	S	■	■	K	E	L	P
H	O	A	R	S	E	W	H	I	S	P	E	R	E	R
L	Y	R	A	■	■	H	Y	E	N	A	■	L	E	O
■	■	■	I	N	T	O	■	R	I	N	G	E	R	S
E	R	E	N	O	W	■	C	S	P	A	N	■	■	■
W	I	L	D	B	O	R	E	■	■	M	A	I	Z	E
O	V	E	R	■	B	A	R	E	M	A	R	K	E	T
K	E	N	O	■	I	R	E	N	E	■	L	E	A	R
S	N	A	P	■	T	E	S	L	A	■	Y	A	L	E

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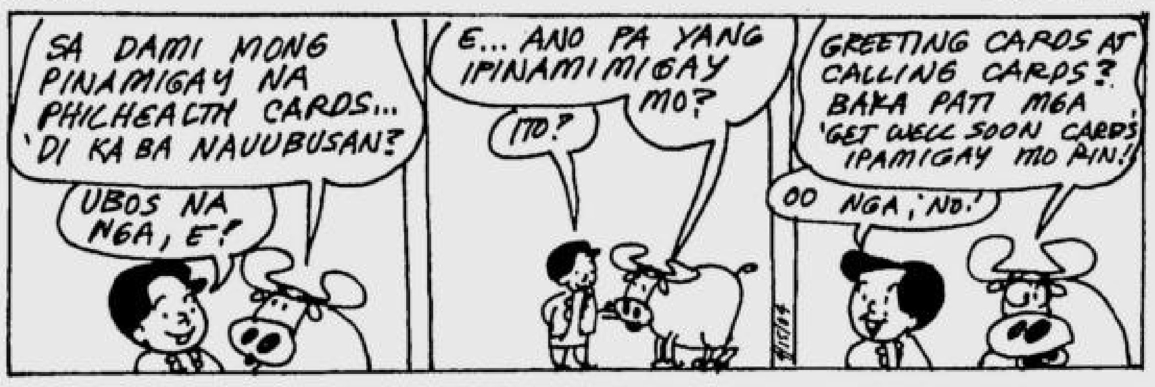
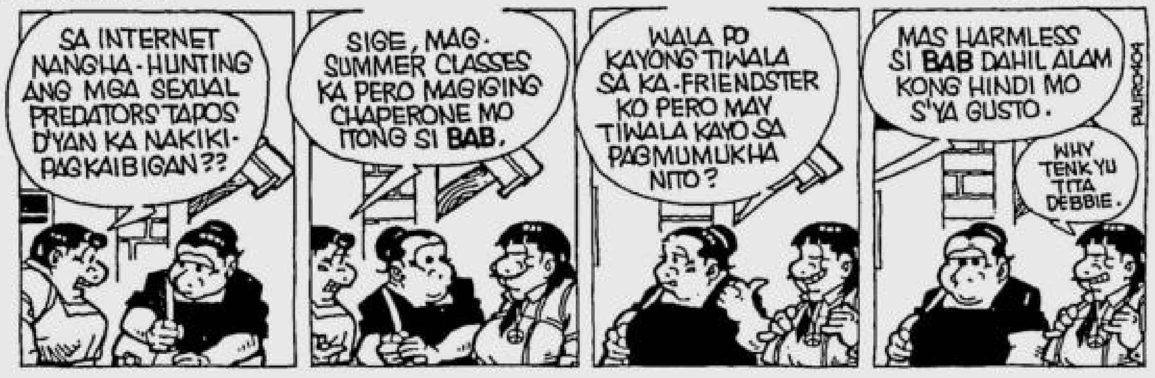
4/15/04

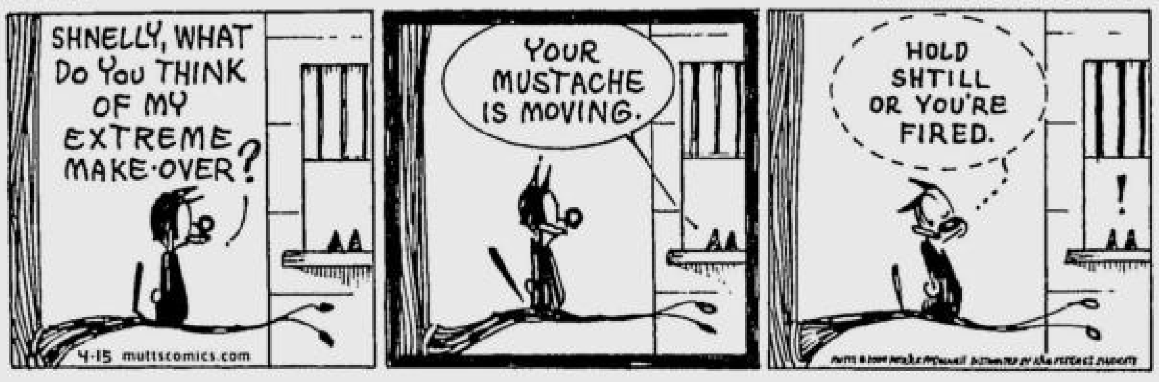
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


SA DAMI MONG PINAMIGAY NA PHILHEALTH CARDS... 'DI KA BA NAUUBUSAN?
UBOS NA NGA, E!
E... ANO PA YANG IPINAMIMIGAY MO?
ITO?
GREETING CARDS AT CALLING CARDS? BAKA PATI MGA 'GET WELL SOON CARDS' IPAMIGAY MO RIN!
OO NGA, 'NO!

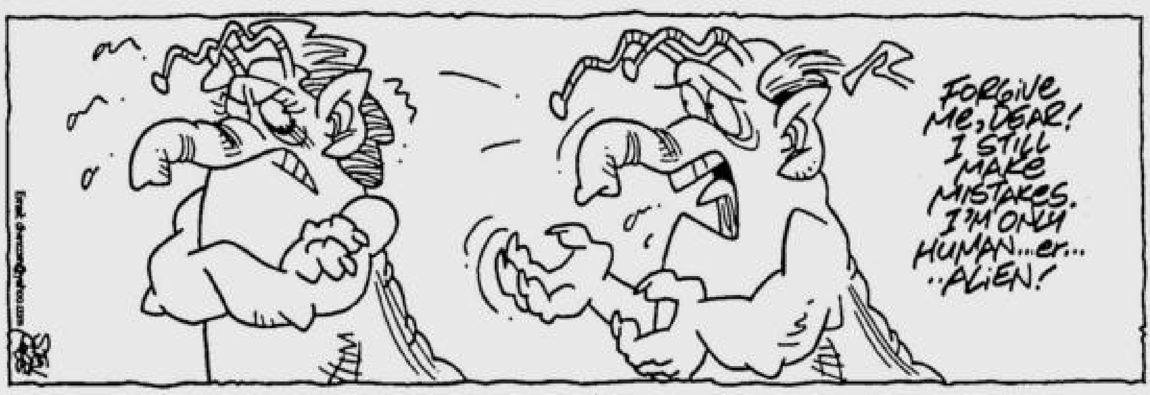
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


SA INTERNET NANGHA-HUNTING ANG MGA SEXUAL PREDATORS TAPOS D'YAN KA NAKIKI-PAGKAIBIGAN??
SIGE, MAG-SUMMER CLASSES KA PERO MAGIGING CHAPERONE MO ITONG SI BAB.
WALA PO KAYONG TIWALA SA KA-FRIENDSTER KO PERO MAY TIWALA KAYO SA PAGMUMUKHA NITO?
MAS HARMLESS SI BAB DAHIL ALAM KONG HINDI MO S'YA GUSTO.
WHY TENK YU TITA DEBBIE.

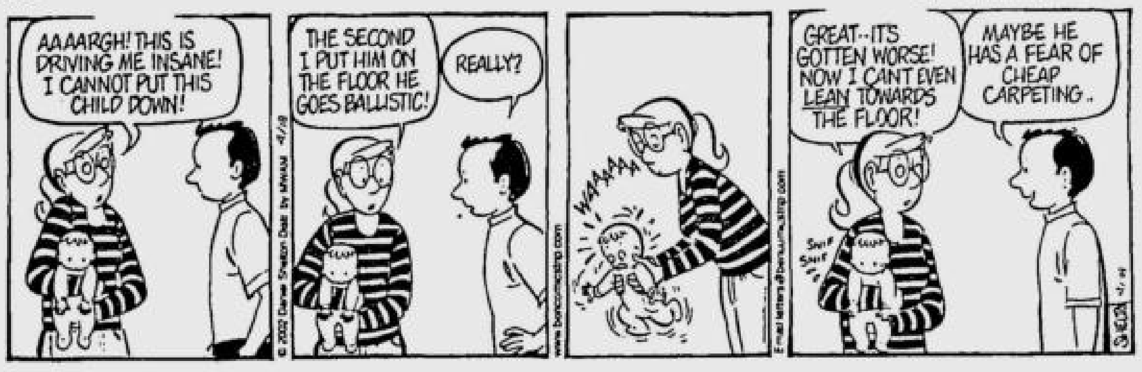
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHNELLY, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY EXTREME MAKE-OVER?
4-15 muttscomics.com
YOUR MUSTACHE IS MOVING.
HOLD SHTILL OR YOU'RE FIRED.
!

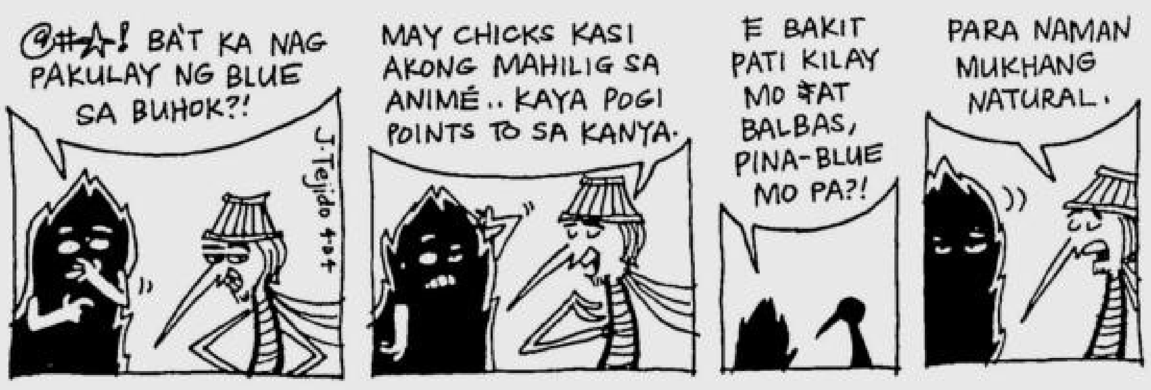
DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


FORGIVE ME, DEAR! I STILL MAKE MISTAKES. I'M ONLY HUMAN...er... ..ALIEN!

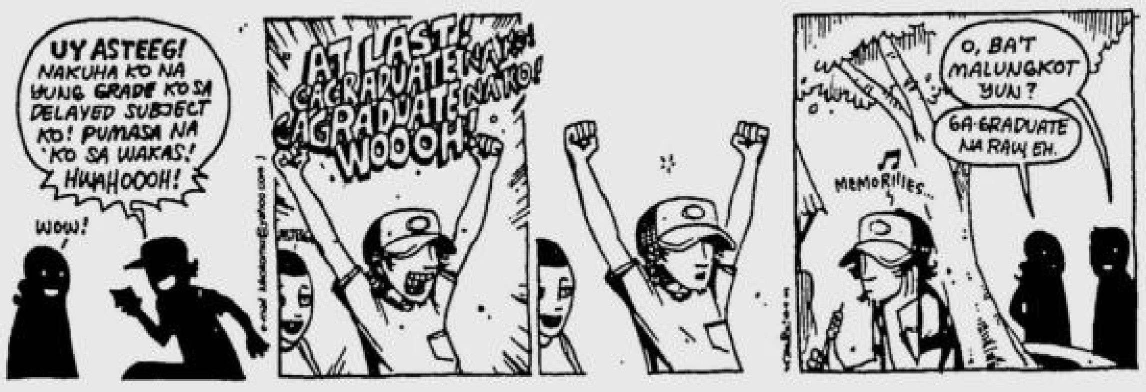
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


AAAARGH! THIS IS DRIVING ME INSANE! I CANNOT PUT THIS CHILD DOWN!
THE SECOND I PUT HIM ON THE FLOOR HE GOES BALLISTIC!
REALLY?
WAAAAA
GREAT--ITS GOTTEN WORSE! NOW I CANT EVEN LEAN TOWARDS THE FLOOR!
MAYBE HE HAS A FEAR OF CHEAP CARPETING..

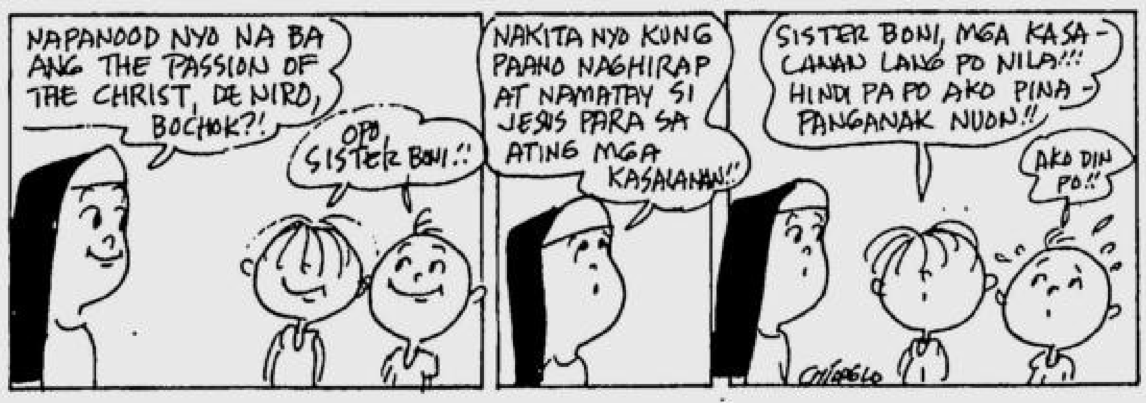
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


@#☆! BA'T KA NAG PAKULAY NG BLUE SA BUHOK?!
J. Tejido
MAY CHICKS KASI AKONG MAHILIG SA ANIMÉ.. KAYA POGI POINTS TO SA KANYA.
E BAKIT PATI KILAY MO AT BALBAS, PINA-BLUE MO PA?!
PARA NAMAN MUKHANG NATURAL.

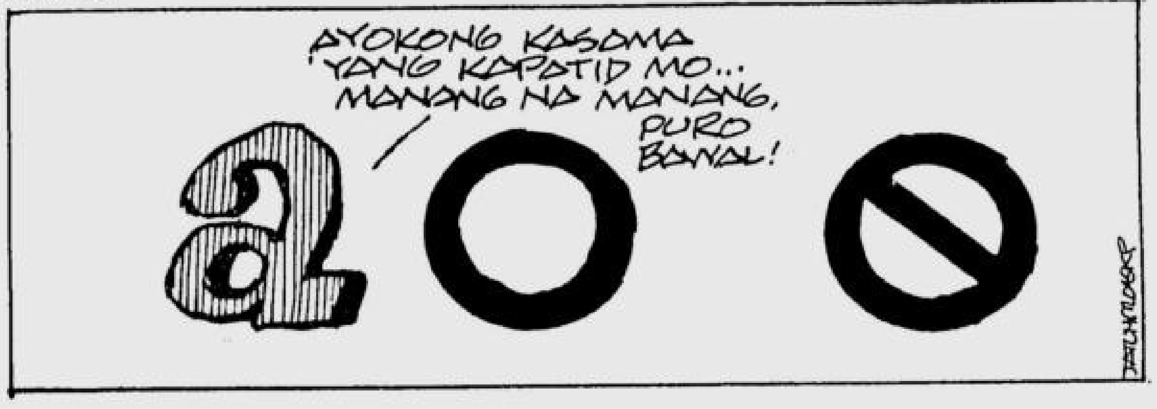
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


UY ASTEEG! NAKUHA KO NA YUNG GRADE KO SA DELAYED SUBJECT KO! PUMASA NA 'KO SA WAKAS! HWAHOOOH!
WOW!
AT LAST! GAGRADUATE NA KO! GAGRADUATE NA KO! WOOOH!
MEMORIIES...
O, BA'T MALUNGKOT YUN?
GA-GRADUATE NA RAW EH.

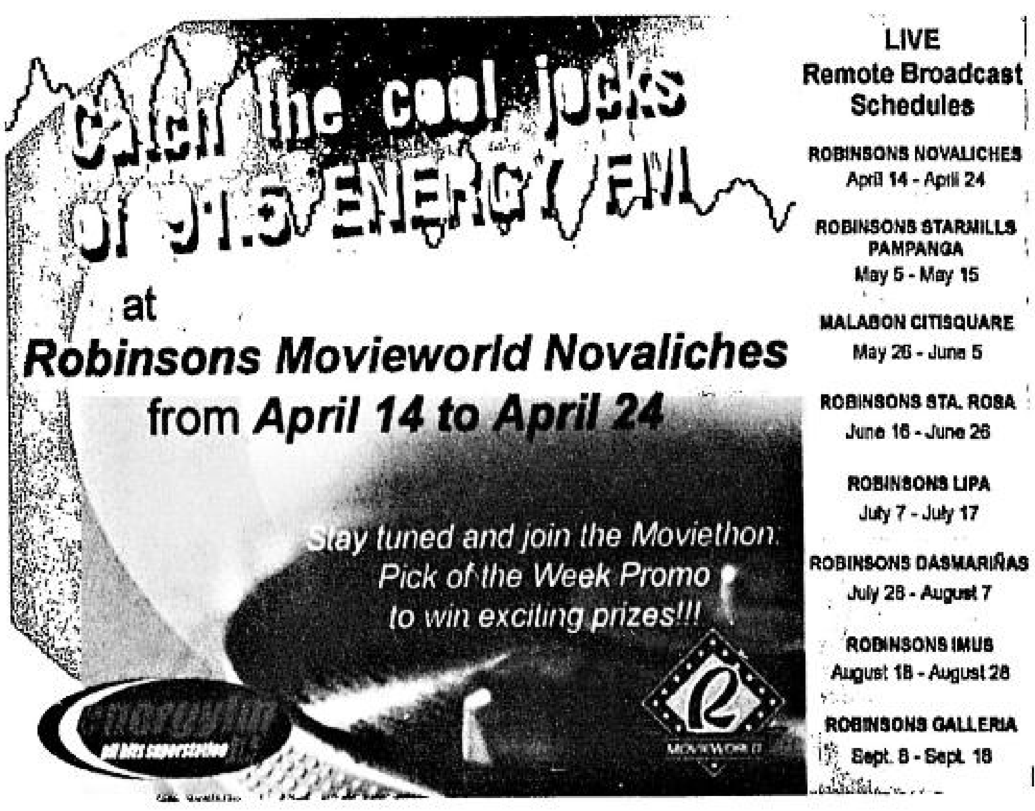
LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAPANOOD NYO NA BA ANG THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST, DE NIRO, BOCHOK?!
OPO SISTER BONI!!
NAKITA NYO KUNG PAANO NAGHIRAP AT NAMATAY SI JESUS PARA SA ATING MGA KASALANAN!!
SISTER BONI, MGA KASALANAN LANG PO NILA!!! HINDI PA PO AKO PINAPANGANAK NUON!!
AKO DIN PO!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


AYOKONG KASAMA YANG KAPATID MO... MANANG NA MANANG, PURO BANAL!

Agassi wants sale of 'offensive' rap album stopped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ROBINSONS STARMILLS PAMPANGA
May 5 - May 15

MALABON CITISQUARE
May 26 - June 5

ROBINSONS STA. ROSA
June 16 - June 26

ROBINSONS LIPA
July 7 - July 17

ROBINSONS DASMARIÑAS
July 28 - August 7

ROBINSONS IMUS
August 18 - August 28

ROBINSONS GALLERIA
Sept. 8 - Sept. 18

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

CARLOS "Amir" Agassi's lawyer from Tagum, Del Rosario & partners Law Offices sent a letter of complaint to XAX records demanding that the recording firm stop the sale of the album "DJ RB Won presents United Freestyle V2.0."

The album includes the cut "Right Now" by The Mad Poets with a line that goes like this: "*Ang dapat sa 'yo ay mag-disappear tulad ng* show biz *na si* Amir." Another cut in the rap compilation is "No Album, Got Skills?" also has a line referring to Carlos: "I destroy MC, more than eyes can see. No matter what, I'll make you look like Carlos Agassi." Master rapper **Francis M.**'s gospel rap number "The Light" is also included in the album.

Agassi's camp threatens to file formal charges if XAX records does not heed its plea to ban all sales of the rap album.

Carlos has every right to feel insulted, but being a rapper himself he ought to know that in rap culture sometimes it's better to retaliate by composing another rap number referring to the other rapper who used his name in their song.

Another way of looking at it, Carlos, is that you're already a household name and it means you have arrived. Famous rapper **Eminem** has a song with his daughter **Haley** that contains a line alluding to his rival **Ja Rule**, yet the latter just let it slide. It's all in the spirit of coolness!

Hopefully this issue between the local rappers will be wrapped up on a positive note.

Not together

JERICHO Rosales and **Kristine Hermosa** were spotted in Puerto Galera during Holy Week, but my mole didn't see them together. But surely they would have bumped into each other on the resort island. On the way back to Manila, Kristine rode the boat with some friends. Echo was nowhere in sight. Is there really no more echoes of heartbeats for Jericho in Kristine's heart?

Rico's presence

DOMINIC Ochoa spent Holy Week in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore with his business partners.

Every Good Friday, Dom can't help but reminisce about his good buddy **Rico Yan**. He sighed, "It's been two years since Rico died but I still can't believe he's gone. Last March 29 was his second death anniversary and that's when I felt his presence all the more. I set my alarm clock at 10:30 a.m. but I woke up at 9:30 a.m. That was the exact time I set my alarm at Dos Palmas the day we would find out Rico was gone. It was as if he woke me up to remind me that it's been two years already."

AGASSI

It's also quite uncanny that on the same day, March 29, Dom had a shoot for Talk & Text with his other good friend **Marvin Agustin**, who was with Rico and him in Dos Palmas. "It felt like Rico wanted us to be together on that day to remember him," said Dom.

As I cope with my mom's demise, I can totally relate to Dom's sentiments.

Boracay stars

HOLY Week sightings in Boracay included **Pops Fernandez**, the Turvey **Brad** and **Greg** brothers, **Cindy Kurleto, Desiree del Valle, Aiko Melendez, Keempee de Leon, Marc Nelson, Cherie Gil, Albert** and **Liezl Martinez** with their kids. I wonder who among the single ones had a heavenly good time in the Paradise Island. Hmm…

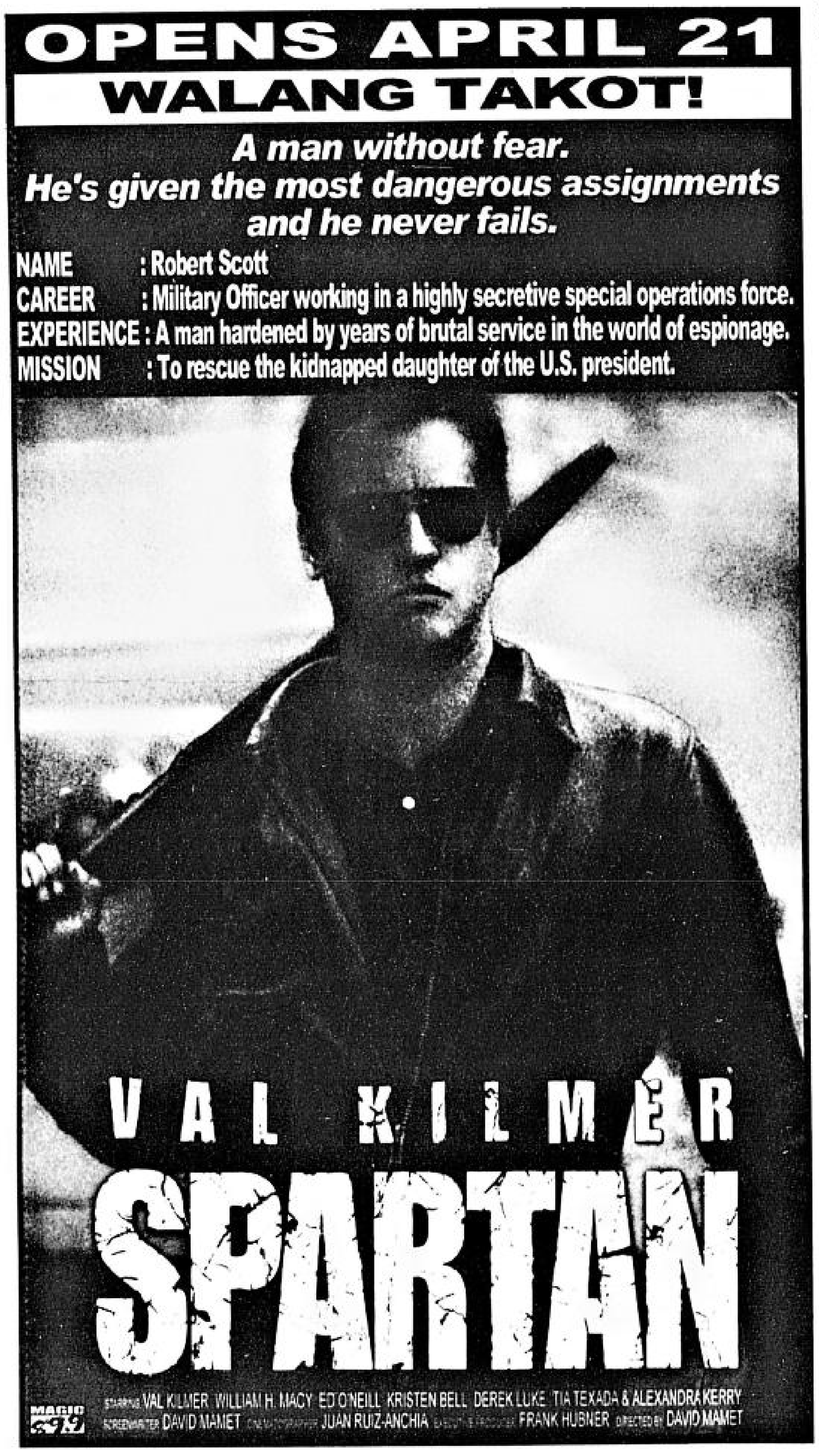
Another reality show

ABS-CBN 2 is cooking up a dating show which will run for only two months or so. Perhaps if it clicks, they will extend it to a longer season. Will it usher in a new TV craze? Isn't there an overkill of reality TV already?

Enchanted at 9

IN CELEBRATION of Enchanted Kingdom's 9th anniversary, the theme park is preparing to have a blast of a bash. I am looking forward to being one of the judges in the fireworks competition on April 24. The winner shall be the Philippines' representative to the 2005 Macau fireworks competition. Nine Filipino competitors will vie to be enchanted Kingdom's official fireworks supplier for the whole year.

For feedback, e-mail friends_elpueblo@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com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WALANG TAKOT!
A man without fear.
He's given the most dangerous assignments and he never fails.
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SPARTAN
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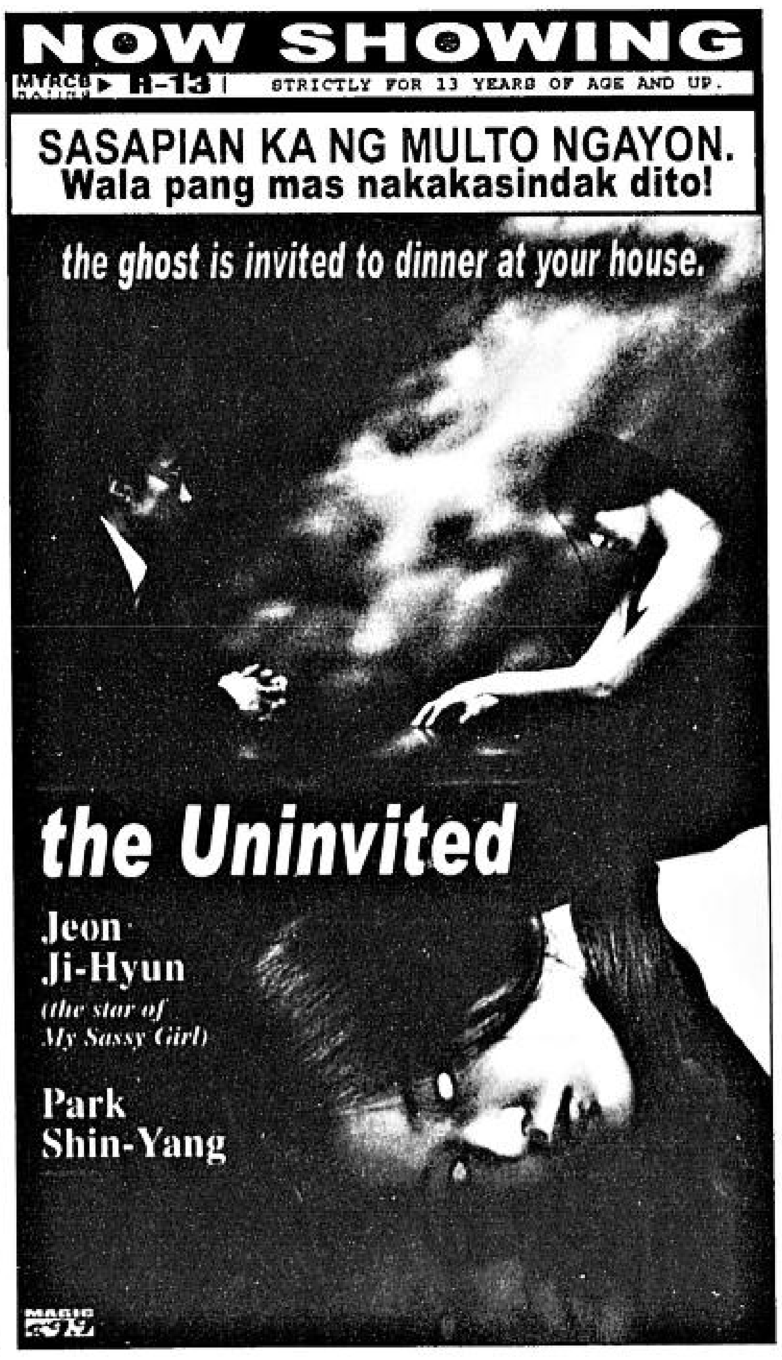
SCREENWRITER DAVID MAMET CINEMATOGRAPHER JUAN RUIZ-ANCHIA EXECUTIVE PRODUCER FRANK HUBNER DIRECTED BY DAVID MAMET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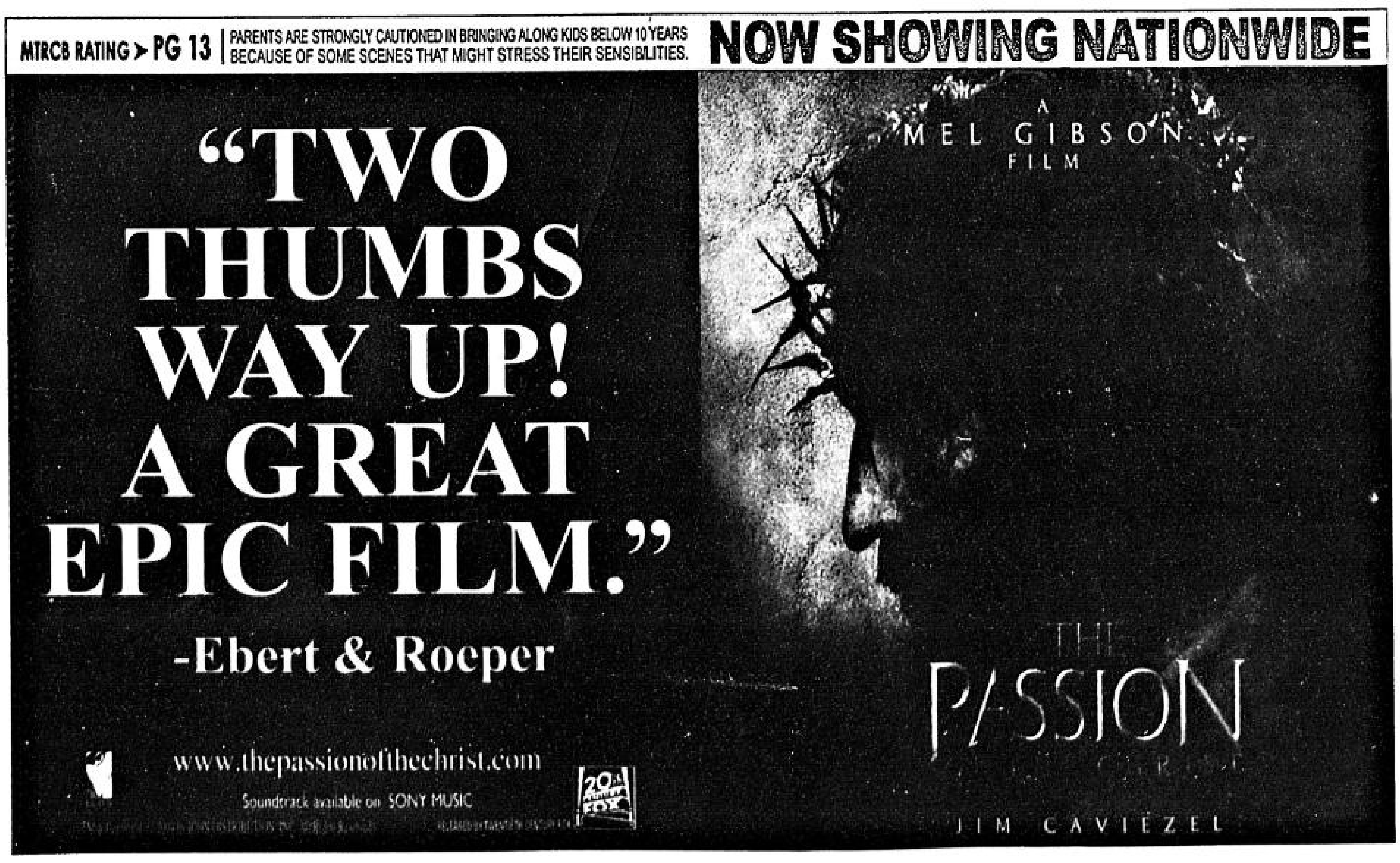
SASAPIAN KA NG MULTO NGAYON.
Wala pang mas nakakasindak dito!
the ghost is invited to dinner at your house.
the Uninvited
Jeon Ji-Hyun
(the star of My Sassy Girl)
Park Shin-Yang


MTRCB RATING ▶ PG 13 | PARENTS ARE STRONGLY CAUTIONED IN BRINGING ALONG KIDS BELOW 10 YEARS BECAUSE OF SOME SCENES THAT MIGHT STRESS THEIR SENSIBILITIES.
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Coup-inspired . . .

From page A32

homemaker even before I was born. My father never tires of telling his children that no success can ever compensate for failure at home."

A graduate of International Broadcast Journalism from Cardiff University and Thomson Foundation as a 2001 British Chevening scholar, Richelle is also raring to do something new. She plans to settle down in her future husband's hometown in Iloilo after their wedding, and rest for maybe six months after which "I shall have already decided whether to come back as TV field reporter for GMA-Iloilo, study abroad, or try something different."

Her mother has apparently influenced Richelle in choosing family over career.

"Mom has no regrets about having to quit her job to be a full-time housewife. Even now, she says she'd gladly give up anything anytime in favor of family."

From La Salle to the world

Richelle is not your typical TV field reporter. While in college, she was named a TOC-TOYM (The Outstanding Coeds-Ten Outstanding Young Men) awardee in 1993; became managing editor of The Lasallian, DLSU's official publication; and acted as adjudicator at the XVIII World Universities Debating Championships in Athens, Greece.

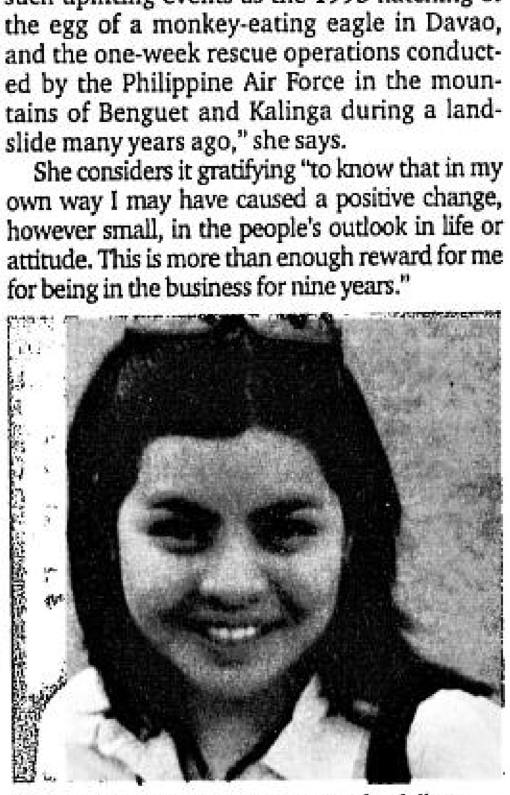
In 1999, she joined 14 other contributors of CNN World Report on a four-week training and scholarship program at CNN International in Atlanta, Georgia. In August 2001, she underwent a one-week attachment with BBC Norwich as part of the 12-week Thomson Foundation course in International Broadcast Journalism and had the chance of going out on coverage with reporters of "BBC Look East," the newscast of BBC Norwich, and helping them in the production of their stories.

Richelle also gets to anchor the hourly news advisories for GMA and was anchor of a news program on the now defunct Citynet 27.

As field reporter, Richelle was part of the team that covered the 1996 Apec Summit, the 1998 presidential election and Centennial celebrations, several major tragedies like the Ozone Disco fire, and history-making events like the Edsa People Power 2 Revolution.

"I also felt important for having covered such uplifting events as the 1995 hatching of the egg of a monkey-eating eagle in Davao, and the one-week rescue operations conducted by the Philippine Air Force in the mountains of Benguet and Kalinga during a landslide many years ago," she says.

She considers it gratifying "to know that in my own way I may have caused a positive change, however small, in the people's outlook in life or attitude. This is more than enough reward for me for being in the business for nine years."



SY: No success can compensate for failure in the home.

New music school opens in Makati

A NEW music school is opening this April 17, with two music stalwarts at the helm.

Stardev Studios in Poblete Building at 17 Gil Puyat Ave., Makati will be headed by music industry veterans Renato "Tato" Malay and Nikki Junia. The two will lead the training and career development of its students.

SHOW STOPPER

Malay has carved a name in the recording industry as an Artist and Repertoire (A&R) specialist. He has launched to stardom some of today's big names in the music scene.

Nikki Junia is a Cum Laude graduate of Music Education at the University of Sto. Tomas Conservatory of Music. She is also a seasoned performer whose career began at age 11 with her stint in the original 14K.

Junia will handle technical courses for voice training and musical performance while Malay will conduct workshops that will bring out the inner star in students.

Junia said the learning technique is intended to bring out the best from students.

"What they will learn from Stardev Studios they will be proud to show. And with Tato on career development, anything can happen," Junia said.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

Ali 3	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
Ali 4	PAYCHECK
Ali 5	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
Ali 6	PETER PAN
Ali 7	TAKING LIVES

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APR 18	PBA : COKE VS. FEDEX
APR 20	NCA 7 - COCK DERBY
APR 21	PBA : SHELL VS. SAN MIGUEL
APR 22	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
APR 24	MY GIFT PIOLO PASCUAL 1ST TIME IN CONCERT
APR 25	PBA . COKE VS. PUREFOODS

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	LIGAYA / NANABIK
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	KASIPING
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ACACIA
CINEMA-2	PUNLA
CINEMA-3	UNINVITED
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCOOBY DOO 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
CINEMA-6	SORUM
CINEMA-7	NANANABIK
CINEMA-8	VENUS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PAYCHECK
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PETER PAN
CINEMA-12	TAKING LIVES
CINEMA-14	TWISTED
CINEMA-15	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PIÑAS)	SCOOBY DOO 2
CINEMA-1	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
CINEMA-2	HIDALGO
CINEMA-4	GRUDGE 2

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

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687-6963 • 687-6972

RESERVED SEATING

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	PAY CHECK	11:50, 2:20, 4:50 7:20, 9:50	PG-13
2	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST	1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10	PG-13
3	TAKING LIVES	11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00	R-18
4	PETER PAN	11:20, 1:40, 4:00 6:20, 8:40, 10:55	GP

POWER PLANT CINEMA

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST PG13 11:40, 2:10, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10	PETER PAN GP 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40	TAKING LIVES R18 1:20, 3:35, 5:50, 8:05, 10:20
TWISTED R13 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:20	UNINVITED R13 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:20	PAYCHECK PG13 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30

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CINEMA 1	PAYCHECK	11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50	P13
CINEMA 2	PETER PAN	11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50	GP

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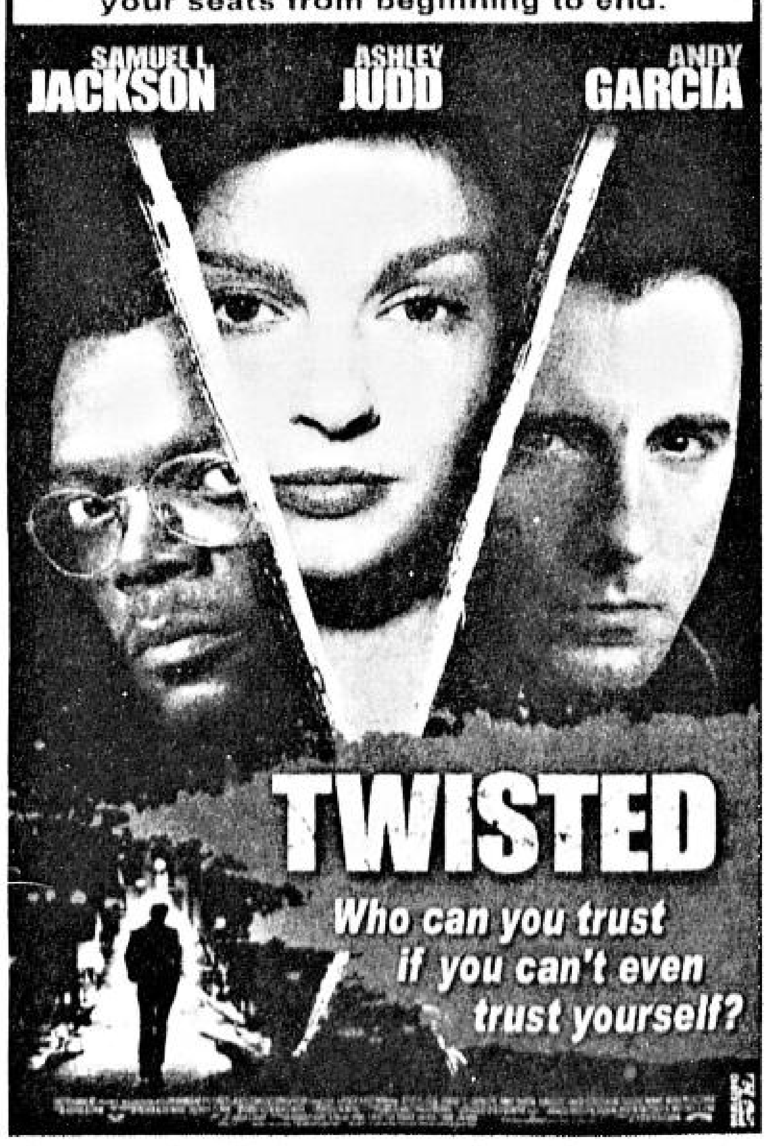

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1 (DTS)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
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3 (DTS)	TAKING LIVES
4 GOLD (DTS)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	TWISTED
6 GOLD (SDDS)	PAY CHECK
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	PETER PAN
8 [illegible]	BOOBITA ROSE
9 [illegible]	UNINVITED
10 [illegible]	PETER PAN

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4 (DOLBY)	PETER PAN

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2	TWISTED
3	ACACIA

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1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	TAKING LIVES
	BOOBITA ROSE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	TWISTED
5	

METROPOLIS star
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(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	TAKING LIVES
2	BOOBITA ROSE
3	TWISTED
4	PETER PAN
5	PAY CHECK
6	PASSION OF THE CHRIST

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Piñas) tel 873.5004

1	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
2	SCOOBY DOO-2

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 892.2503

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
2	GOTHIKA

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	MASIKIP
3	
4	

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Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

5	RESERVE
6	
7 (DTS)	
8 (SDDS)	
9 (DOLBY)	

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	TAKING LIVES
2	PETER PAN
3	BOOBITA ROSE
4 (SDDS)	TWISSTED
5	PAY CHECK
6 (DOLBY)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
7 (DTS)	UNINVITED
8	VENUS
9	ACACIA

Gotesco Commonwealth
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1	RESERVE
2 (SDDS)	
3 (DTS)	
4 (DOLBY)	
5	

Gotesco Ortigas
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1	ACACIA
2	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
3 (DTS)	TAKING LIVES
4	BOOBITA ROSE
5 (SDDS)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST

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1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	TWISSTED
3	TAKING LIVES
4	PETER PAN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2	PETER PAN
3	BOOBITA ROSE
4	TAKING LIVES
5	TWISSTED

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	ACACIA

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7
Tel No. 911 3101 Loc. 821-8242

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOOBITA ROSE
4 (SDDS)	PAYCHECK
5 (DTS)	PASSION OF CHRIST
6	PETER PAN
7	TAKING LIVES

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	PAY CHECK
2	BOOBITA ROSE
3 (DTS EX)	PASSION OF CHRIST
4	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	ACACIA
3 (DOLBY)	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
4 (DTS)	PASSION OF CHRIST

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	THE GRUDGE-2
3 (DOLBY)	PAY CHECK
4 (DTS)	50 FIRST DATE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	TAKING LIVES
3 (DTS)	PETER PAN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2 (DTS)	TAKING LIVES
3 (DOLBY)	PAY CHECK
4	PETER PAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2 (DOLBY)	PETER PAN
3 (DTS)	PAY CHECK
4	TAKING LIVES

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	50 FIRST DATE
2	GRUDGE-2
3 (DOLBY)	SCOOBY DOO-2

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	
2	HIDALGO
3 (DOLBY)	BUTTERFLY EFFECTS
4 (DTS)	SCOOBY DOO-2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795-3320

1	PASSION OF CHRIST
2	BOOBITA ROSE
3	HIDALGO

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	BUTTERFLY EFFECTS
2	KARIBAL
3	PORNOGRAPHER
4 (DTS)	BOOBITA ROSE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	PETER PAN
2	BOOBITA ROSE
3 (DTS)	PAY CHECK
4	TAKING LIVES
5	HIGHWAY MEN

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	VENUS
2	ACACIA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	PETER PAN
2	TAKING LIVES
3	BOOBITA ROSE

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	GRUDGE-2
2	50 FIRST DATE
3 (DTS)	SCOOBY DOO-2
4 (DOLBY)	BOOBITA ROSE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel 520.8914

1 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	THE GRUDGE-2
3	HIDALGO
4	TAKING LIVES

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	KARIBAL

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

SCOOBY-DOO 2
NOW SHOWING

More movies on page B5.

ENTERTAINMENT

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By Marinel R. Cruz

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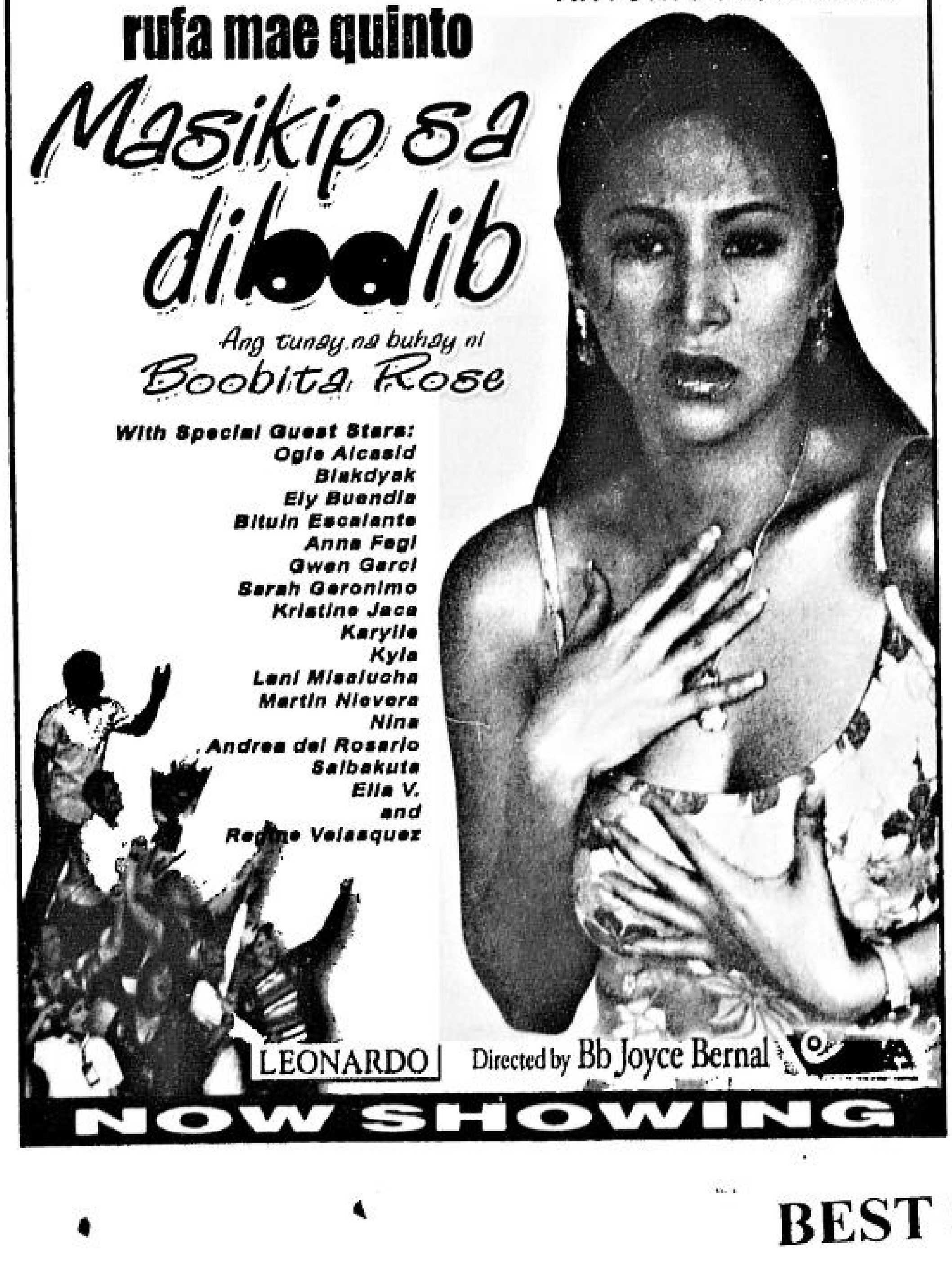

Coup-inspired reporter ready to quit for marriage

By Joven S. Joya
Contributor

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COUP-INSPIRED/ A30

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MTRCB ▶ PG-13
IIYAK KA SA KATATAWA
SUNSHINE DIZON JOHN LAPUZ and GINA PAREÑO introducing RUDY HATFIELD
ANTONIO AQUITANIA
rufa mae quinto
Masikip sa dibdib
Ang tunay na buhay ni Boobita Rose
With Special Guest Stars:
Ogie Alcasid
Blakdyak
Ely Buendia
Bituin Escalante
Anna Fegi
Gwen Garci
Sarah Geronimo
Kristine Jaca
Karylle
Kyla
Lani Misalucha
Martin Nievera
Nina
Andrea del Rosario
Salbakuta
Ella V.
and
Regine Velasquez
LEONARDO
Directed by Bb Joyce Bernal
VIVA
NOW SHOWING

Coup-inspired reporter ready to quit for marriage

By Joven S. Joya
Contributor

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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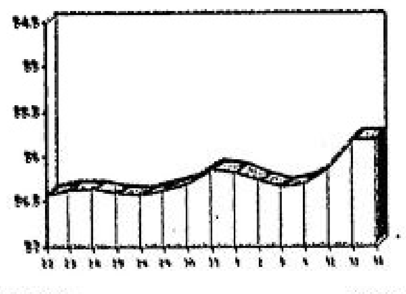
AVAILABLE IN TOURING EXTRA RALLYE RACE

Peso hits intra-day high of 55.66 to $1

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

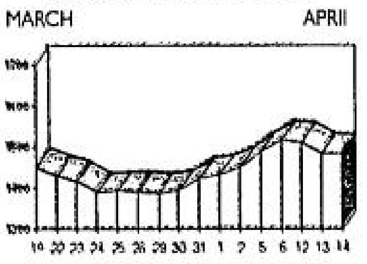
P 55.80 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 14, 2004

¥ 107.22= $1
As of 5 p.m., April 14, 2004

GOLD: $416.90-417.40
per ounce Hong Kong, April 13, 2004

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end down for 3rd day


PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

(See stock market report on Page B2)

THE STOCK market extended its decline for the third straight day yesterday, dragged by profit-taking in telecom leader PLDT and its chief rival Globe Telecom Inc .

Analysts said investors chose to cash in their gains despite speculation that President Macapagal-Arroyo would win a second term in the May national polls.

They said Ms Macapagal's campaign might be boosted by rival former Sen. Raul Roco's announcement he would go on an indefinite leave from the presidential campaign to seek treatment abroad for a back ailment.

"The selling spree just reinforces the notion that investors are currently taking a cautious stance in their equity investments," RCBC Securities stocks analyst Edwin Mendoza said.

STOCKS/ B4

Market expects technical correction

By Doris C. Dumlao

STRONG dollar inflows and the improving political climate lifted the peso to its intra-day high of 55.66 to the dollar, its strongest showing since Jan. 22, before closing at 55.80 yesterday.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the investors who had speculated that the peso would continue its freefall to 57 to $1 were now in a rush to dispose of their dollar holdings.

"It (the peso) will probably remain strong for a while," Buenaventura said yesterday.

He said the peso's sharp depreciation in late March was caused by "leads and lags." These means the accumulation of dollars by certain quarters for future requirement and the stance taken by dollar earners to delay converting their holdings to peso in anticipation of further depreciation of the currency.

"This is starting to change, so there's a bit of (dollar) oversupply at the moment," he said.

BUENAVENTURA

Yesterday, the local currency opened at 55.85, hit an intra-day low of 55.87 and soared to 55.66. After rallying for three days, however, there was some technical correction which pushed back the peso to 55.80 to $1, the same as Tuesday's closing.

He said there were strong inflows from exports and overseas Filipino workers' (OFW) remittances.

"Of course the political uncertainty has now disappeared. What the market will watch out for now is how the (electoral) process will proceed. They now believe election-related violence is unlikely," he said.

A recent survey conducted by Pulse Asia showed incumbent President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is generally favored by the financial markets over rival Fernando Poe Jr., gaining lead over the actor.

The BSP chief said portfolio investments were returning to the Philippines as political noise had started to wane.

In the past, domestic political uncertainties have prevented the peso from gaining ground against the dollar even when prospects were bullish in favor of regional currencies.

The market has likewise discounted earlier concerns over the country's dwindling gross international reserves.

A trader from a local commercial bank said that yesterday's closing at 55.80 suggested that a near-term bottom had been established at the dollar's intra-day low of 55.60.

The trader said it was likely that the peso-dollar exchange rate would return to the 56-levels soon.

"A close above the 55.90 levels would confirm the bottom at 55.66 and may initially test the 56-56.10 level," the trader said.

Gov't debt yields fall

YIELDS on Philippine government debt paper fell by at least 30 basis points in an active market yesterday as banks bet that President Macapagal-Arroyo would win a second term in May national polls.

Dealers said Ms Macapagal's campaign was boosted by rival Raul Roco's announcement he would seek treatment abroad for a bad back, a move that some analysts said was an effective withdrawal.

The recovery of the peso to the 55 level for the first time in two months also buoyed market sentiment.

"From yesterday, bids are easily 30 basis points lower," said a dealer from a local bank.

"It's because of Roco. Gloria now has a bigger chance of winning the election."

The latest opinion poll released earlier this week showed Arroyo taking a significant lead over actor and political neophyte Fernando Poe Jr. for the first time.

Most people in the business sector have indicated they would support the campaign of either Arroyo or Roco in the May elections.

The BSP said the peso recovery was supported by inflows of remittances from millions of overseas Filipino workers. *Reuters*

Gov't may raise taxes on jeepney, bus operators

THE GOVERNMENT is considering raising the taxes imposed on operators of jeepneys and cabs, including "mega taxis," in order to generate as much as P8-P12 billion in fresh revenue starting next year.

Sources from the Department of Finance said the tax slapped on operators of these public transports, amounting to 3 percent of quarterly gross receipts, was fixed in 1978 and it should now be "indexed" to current prices.

Operators of buses and mass transit systems are, however, excluded from the plan since they are already properly taxed based on the receipts they issue.

The sources said the move to update the taxes on jeepneys and cab operators was among the new tax measures being seriously studied by the government to boost revenue for next year. The government has been hounded by huge budget shortfalls since 1998.

Like the proposed. tax on cellular phone "texting" or short messaging system (SMS), the measure needs legislation from Congress.

The inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee is targeting to raise P50 billion in additional revenue from new measures for 2005, partly to finance increases in the salaries of government employees.

A government source said the adjustment in taxes on selected public transport or common carriers was being considered, as the percentage tax had not been maximized.

The source said the existing 3 percent tax was already difficult to implement, due to under-declaration by various utility operators.

"What the BIR (Bureau of Internal Revenue) simply does is to collect a minimum rate, so that there will at least be some revenue from common carriers," the source said.

In computing the current quarterly percentage tax on jeepneys, for instance, the BIR had set a minimum of P2,400 for those operating in Manila and other cities, and P1,200 for those plying provincial routes.

A minimum tax of P3,600 are slapped on taxi operators in Manila and other cities, and P2,400 on those in the provinces.

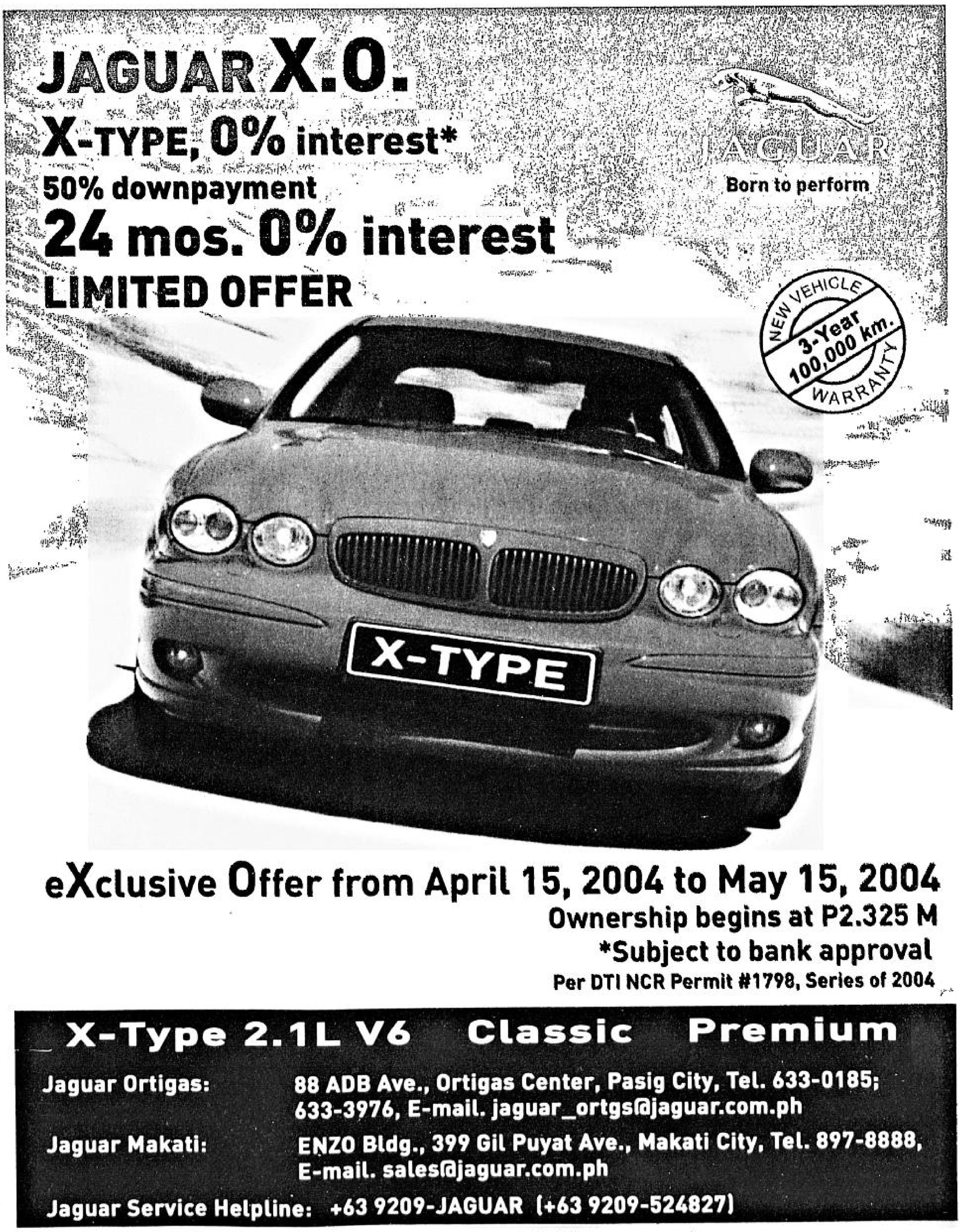
Other sources admitted that the proposed increase in taxes on domestic carriers, along with other measures being lined up, was "politically inconvenient."

These transportation modes are the ones servicing lower-income brackets, or those who cannot afford private vehicles.

The DBCC—which is composed of representatives from the DOF, Department of Budget and Management, National Economic and Development Authority and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas—will meet this week to map out the measures needed to raise the additional P50 billion in revenue for 2005. The government plans to cap its budget shortfall next yeat at P188 billion from the P197.8 billion programmed for this year.

The government is hoping to attain a fiscal balance by 2010.

The sources also said the government could raise as much as P8 billion from the indexation of petroleum taxes to inflation.*Doris C. Dumlao*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Hit a bank wall

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

AND so, with one more candidate running away to the doctor, this presidential election is shaping into a one-on-one contest between Gloriaetta and Sideburns.

Well, as they say, you can choose your friends, but you cannot choose your relatives, and also the presidential candidates in this country!

But at least that much, meaning, a one-on-one contest, is clear in business circles, i.e. the campaign contributors. *Mas tipid!* Business can save a little money now.

What remains a big guessing game in many boardrooms, particularly in the big business hub called Makati, is the US card. Who is Washington supporting?

* * *

RECENTLY, in case you did not notice, Malacañang went to great lengths to explain in media that the US Embassy in Manila did not, er, "warn" this cute administration.

Reports said the "warning" had something to do with this cute administration's campaign against terrorism. I mean, does it really have one?

Clearly, this cute administration was trying to give us the impression that somebody in Washington was still in love with Gloriaetta.

And in this world run by multimillion campaign contributions, the more you try to cover up something, the more will people suspect that everything is not right.

* * *

DON'T look now, but gone out of the Department of Finance, following the departure of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, is the national treasurer, Sergio Edeza.

As I said, wrongly, in a previous column (Feb. 17 this year), Edeza was going back to his first love, which was banking.

We were the first to report that Edeza was moving from the Bureau of the National Treasury to the Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency, a.k.a. Philexim.

Honestly, I thought that Philexim was a bank. In other countries, government institutions with a similar name are all full service banks. Not here!

* * *

IN our country, the full service bank which has "export" and "import" in its name is owned by a private group, and it has nothing to do with export-import financing.

It is run by the group of Donald Dee, which also absorbed the bankrupt Urban Bank, excluding the criminal court cases against the officers.

Anyway, Philexim may be a financing arm of the government for exports and imports, providing guarantee to small businesses, but it is not a bank.

And there lies the problem of the institution. It talks, walks and wobbles like a bank, but it is not a bank. People, i.e. its potential customers, are perhaps confused.

* * *

TO start with, born in 1977, Philexim already had a couple of name changes, which probably added to the confusion.

It used to be the Philippine Export and Foreign Loan Guarantee Corp., or Philguarantee, created in 1977 by a Marcos presidential decree.

It then became the Trade and Investment Development Corp., or Tidcorp, 1998, through Republic Act No. 8494.

Today, as I said, the same corporation is called Philexim, after Gloriaetta only last year issued an executive order to, well, do the same things under a different name.

* * *

ANYWAY, that was all this cute administration could probably do—change its name. But make no mistake, Philexim needs more.

Since Congress created it with a special charter, any change in its function must go through ... well, Congress.

And of course you know very well how things have shaped up between Congress and Malacañang under this cute administration of Gloriaetta.

This cute administration presented many economic measures to this Congress in the many Sonas of Gloriaetta.

Congress already approved a grand total of one bill, which did not even pass the scrutiny of foreign institution which the bill sought to please. *Hay naku!*

* * *

IN any case, Philexim is trying to convert itself into a bank. A bill to that effect has been presented to Congress a long time ago. It has hit a blank wall.

In other countries, the counterparts of Philexim have full banking functions, which made them attractive to the customers, which were mostly exporters.

The business volume of Philexim may be improving, but it still pales in comparison with the volume of other export-import financing firms abroad.

But why is the bill to convert it into a bank not moving. I thought the main job of the President is to push for his or her legislative agenda in Congress.

Under this cute administration, as it turns out, the main job of the president is to campaign for a second term on the very first day of the first term.

* * *

STILL, one good move of Gloriaetta was that she put a good man to manage Philexim—Edeza, who was actually a recruit of Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo.

Before he did not single handedly bungled a mass transit project, Romulo was the first finance secretary of Gloriaetta.

At that time, Romulo was sitting in the board of Metrobank. He had something in common with Edeza, who also worked for Metrobank as SVP for treasury.

Romulo recruited Edeza to head the Bureau of the National Treasury, which was never the same again under him.

Maybe because this cute administration loved to borrow money, instead of raising revenues, Edeza turned into a tough negotiator, when it came to interest rates on government borrowings.

* * *

LAST year, for example, the foreign financial publications Euromoney and AsiaMoney named a bond float done by Edeza as the best domestic bond deal in the region.

Edeza also got the authority to oversee the borrowings of Napocor, which as we all know is a big financial headache to this cute administration.

In other words, Gloriaetta must have trusted Edeza so much, she would not want him to leave the DOF like that snake Camacho did.

But Edeza had a problem. He could no longer afford being a poorly paid national treasurer. In fact, being still a bachelor, Edeza had to sell his condo unit and moved back to the house of his mother.

The pay in Philexim still cannot compare with the pay in private banks like Metrobank, but it is definitely much better than the pay in DOF.

BREAKTIME/B4

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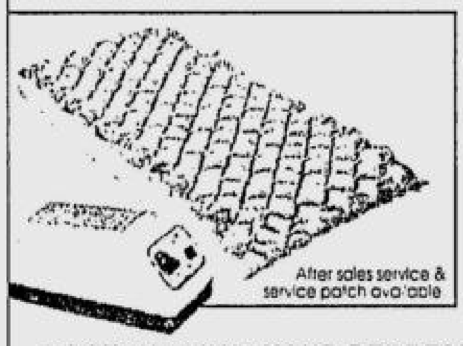

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RP expects $600M in additional revenue from call centers in '04

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES expects to generate about $600 million in revenue this year from new investments in call centers, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima said during the launch of the call center here of British bank HSBC Ltd. that the DTI expects some 40,000 new call center seats to start operating this year, double the number of existing seats.

"Each seat employs 1.4 people generating $15,000 in average revenue, so this means $600 million in new receipts for the Philippines this year," Purisima said.

He said more foreign companies had informed the DTI of their plans to set up call center businesses in the Philippines.

Purisima said the call center and business process outsourcing sector can thus absorb more fresh college graduates.

He said the Philippines was striving to be a "good number two" in the growing business next to global leader India.

India's Bangalore city in the Karnataka state is known as the "Silicon Valley" of Asia. Adjacent cities like Mysore are likewise being groomed as satellite IT programming and backroom servicing centers for the global market.

"Our strategy is to develop (more) contact centers and BPO (offices)," Purisima said.

The backroom units locating in special economic zones as well as those registered under the Board of Investments, like the HSBC Electronic Data Processing Inc., are entitled to fiscal incentives such as an income tax holiday.

Purisima estimated that each call center seat would bring in about $3,000-$6,000 in fresh investments to the Philippines.

Aside from training human resources, the business requires investments in infrastructure.

He said the entry of more foreign companies into the local call center and BPO sector "not only highlights the quality of our local human resources, but demonstrates the continued viability of the Philippines as a place for doing business," he explained.

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Ownership limits to stay, DTI chief says

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry brushed aside calls to further open up the economy to foreign ownership.

Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said in a statement that the economy was liberalized enough despite having a list of sectors where foreign investment is restricted or prohibited.

Purisima's statement came after the American Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines called on the government and Congress to "make the list more positive."

The AmCham said too many restrictions on economic transactions and excessive regulation "reduce incentives for the innovation and investment needed to boost productivity and reduce poverty."

Purisima, however, estimates that at least three-quarters of the local economy was open to foreign equity.

"There is a big opportunity for foreign investors to do business in the Philippines," he said.

Existing laws restrict foreign firms' involvement in ventures such as land ownership, mass media, public utilities and defense-related activities.

Purisima instead urged investors to engage in the following:

- food export business which posted $80.56 million in sales in February, representing a 13-percent growth;
- business processs outsourcing, such as the call center industry which is expected to double its capacity within the year;
- relatively new industries such as petrochemicals, medical tourism and packaging; and "domestic market enterprises" or businesses that produce goods and services meant entirely for the local market.

Bayantel sales up to P886M

By Clarissa S. Batino

BAYAN Telecommunications Inc., the telecommunications company of the Lopez Group, yesterday reported that its net revenue for the first two months of the year grew by 11 percent to P886 million from P798 million in the same period last year.

BayanTel officials attributed the increase to the growth in its subscriber base and improvement in its international phone and data services sectors.

"Our voice services showed a 5 percent net revenue growth compared to last year, driven by the increased subscriber base," explained Michael Cervantes, BayanTel vice president for corporate communications.

As of February, BayanTel's subscribers went up to almost 250,000 or 25 percent more than last year.

At the same time, BayanTel's revenue from voice services for the first two months benefited from the 43 percent revenue growth from international long distance services.

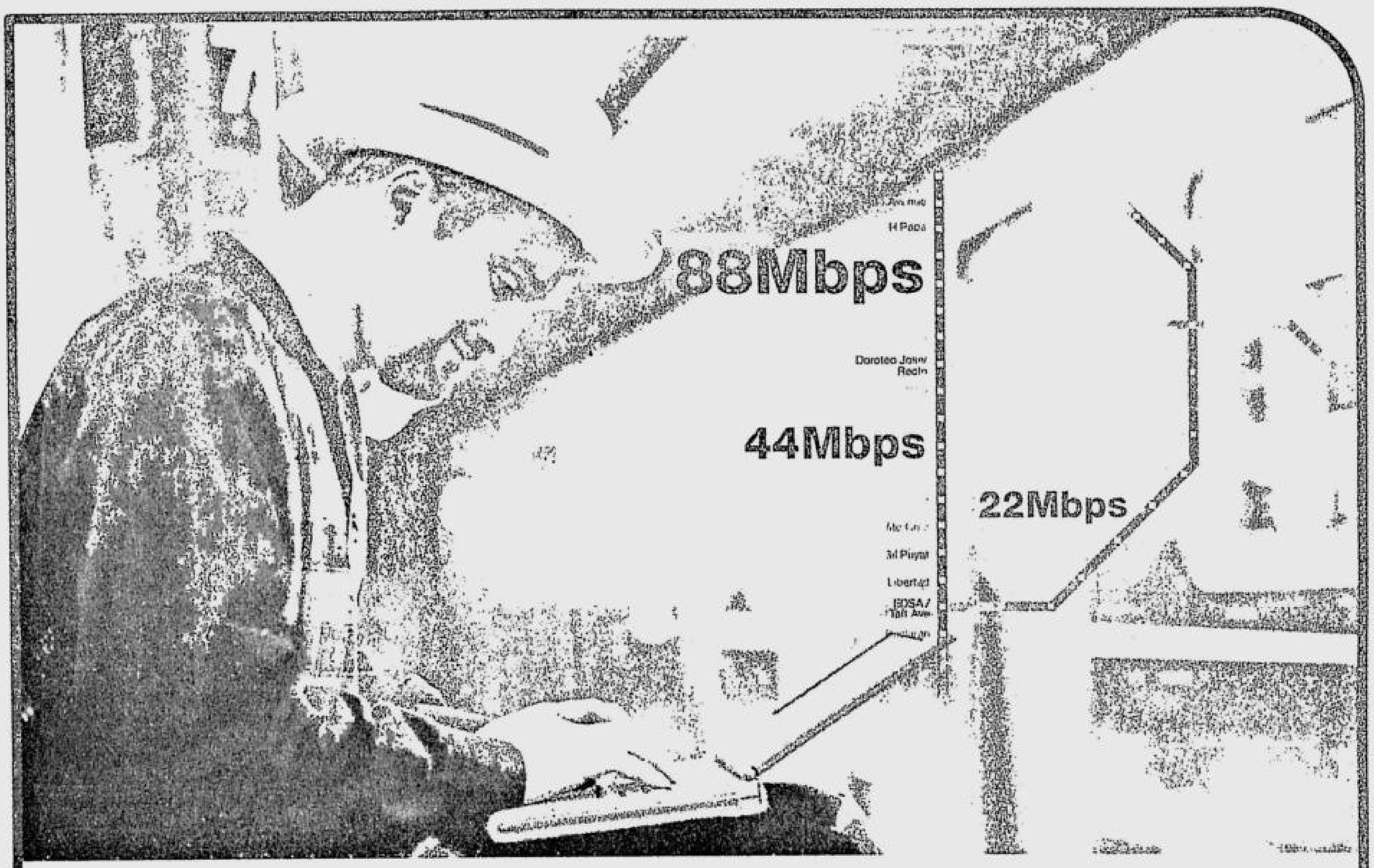
Cervantes said that the company's data services improved by 19 percent as of February compared to the same period in 2003.

"The growth was triggered by the 400 percent growth in our Internet business compared to last year, led by the aggressive selling efforts on digital subscriber line service for the business and residential markets, and the business integration of Sky Internet into BayanTel's operations," the official added.

The company, which is under receivership, said it could sustain revenue growth for the rest of the year, given expectations of a much improved business and political climate by the second half of 2004.

The Lopez-owned firm is currently restructuring P477 million worth of obligations, of which P200 million are owed to bondholders and P277 million to banks.

The company said it planned to complete the rehabilitation by the third quarter of the year, ahead of the April 2005 deadline set by a local court.



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Microshop	816-4378/ 892-4875
Prodata Systems	845-1880/ 884-1571/ 888-8556
Insight Systems Int'l	893-5791
Linknet Com	894-4583
Wiman Computer System	929-0401
Wispy Trading Computer	899-0351/53

MANDALUYONG CITY (+02)	
Brochure Megamall	633-2172/3 / 634-1296/4601
PC Express	718-3939
MANILA (+02)	
Complink Computer	400-5632/ 3
Creative Technologies	400-4222
Masangkay Computer	233-1921/ 251-8558
SVC Enterprises	522-8603-06
Total Quality Machines	526-4503 local 21 & 22
NAGA CITY (+54)	
All Electronics	811-3624/25
OLONGAPO (+047)	
Microshop	252-3432
PASIG CITY (+02)	
FrogE Solutions	634-4867/ 635-6215/ 637-802

QUEZON CITY (+02)	
Blue Edward's Computer	434-4967/8
PC Corner/ Perfect Byte	723-1718
Silicon Valley	371-5614
The Web Diamond Computer System	725-0173/6
SAN JUAN (+02)	
Acenet MicroComputer	725-0762
Compucare Corporation	722-9783
Integrated Computer System	727-3801
SORSOGON CITY (+056)	
All Electronics	211-1515/ 421-5224

Filinvest to issue ₱2B in LTCPs

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FILINVEST Land Inc. plans to issue P2 billion worth of five-year long-term commercial papers by the second quarter to refinance maturing debts in November.

Sources told the INQUIRER that the Gotianun-owned property firm is talking to a number of banks to underwrite or guarantee a market for the proposed debt offering.

The sources added that FLI is confident it will meet other maturing obligations.

Aside from the P2-billion LTCPs issued in 1999 due in November, FLI has a P1.2-billion convertible bond that will mature in 2007. FLI's debt to date stands at P3.2 billion.

When FLI in 1999 issued the P2 billion in LTCPs, its underwriters included Filinvest Capital Inc., AB Capital and Investment Corp., PCI Capital Inc., First Metro Investment Corp., United Coconut Planters Bank, Philippine Commercial Capital Inc., RCBC Capital and Amalgamated Investment Bancorporation.

FLI earlier reported its income before taxes grew 2.2 percent in the nine months last year, at P372 million, up from P364 million. FLI officials said improved gross profit margins and controlled operating expenses resulted in the increase.

They also said that the re-balancing of product mix and repackaging of certain projects drove up sales. Sales reservations during that period hit P1.4 billion or about 85 percent of total sales in 2002.

Real estate sales during the third quarter were largely from affordable projects like Springfield View in Cavite, Punta Altezza in Laguna, Medallion Homes and Melody Heights, both in Bulacan, and from middle income and high-end projects such as Serra Monte Mansions and Highlands Pointe in Taytay, Rizal.

The company, however, set aside higher provisions for income tax at P68.6 million during the nine months last year from P19.5 million the previous year because of the use of deferred income tax asset relating to net operating loss carry over (NOLCO). This, among other factors, led to a 12-percent drop in FLI's net income over that period to P303.1 million from P344.6 million.

FLI launched a number of residential subdivision and housing projects last year, including Vista Hills 11 in Calamba for the affordable and lower middle-income market, The Tropics for the mid-range market in Cainta, Rizal, The Classics and The Village Front commercial area at Brentville in Laguna and the residential farm estate dubbed Nusa Dua in Tanza, Cavite.

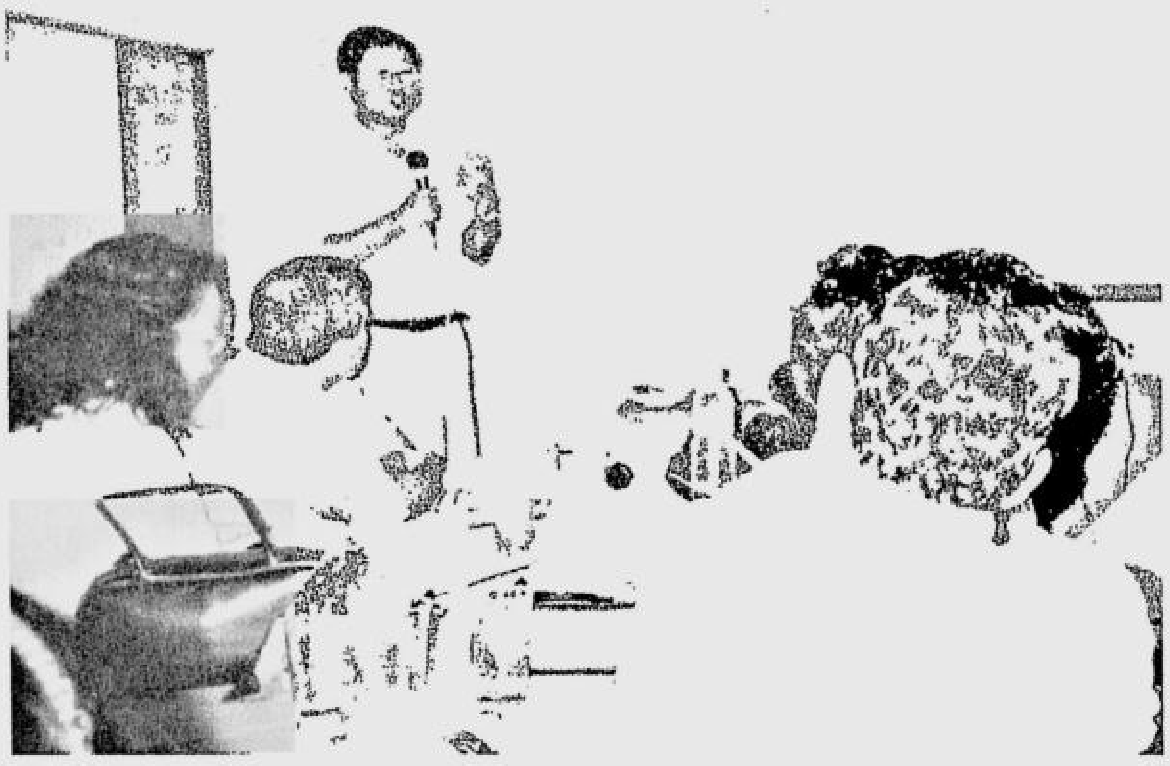
It also launched a new property project in Cebu called Aldea del Sol last year, and a residential farm estate project in San Mateo, Rizal.

The company has yet to report its 2003 financial performance.

Zuellig gives back to the community

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CORPORATE CITIZEN



HLMP fellows listen to Dr. Kenneth Hartigan-Go, Zuellig Foundation executive director.

GIVE a good doctor a sick person and he will know in an instant what is wrong with him or her. But ask that same doctor to chair a meeting or deal with people with conflicting opinions and you will see him flounder like a fish out of water.

It is not because doctors or other health professionals are incompetent. Many have been asked to head offices, but the doctors simply lack management skills.

This is where Zuellig Foundation, the social development arm of the 103-year-old pharmaceutical firm Zuellig Corp., comes in through its Health Leadership and Management Program.

The program targets mid-level managers from the DOH central office, where health regulations and policies are made; DOH regional centers and government hospitals, which provide clinical services; and local government units, which deliver public health services to the community.

Extensive training

These middle managers are put through an extensive training program aimed at upgrading their skills to promote efficient and effective delivery of health services.

The training program consists of three modules: Actualizing Personal Potentials, Managing Toward Organizational Efficiency and Strategic Leadership.

In the first course held two years ago, 108 middle managers were taught the principles of strategic leadership and went on to develop their potentials as leaders. Of the 108, some 70 proceeded to complete the second module.

Participants are also made to realize the importance of their position as dispensers of basic health services to the public and the vanguard of health sector reform.

Delegates to the first training session came from Central Luzon, Southern Luzon, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas and Northern Mindanao.

Dr. Kenneth Hartigan-Go, executive director of Zuellig Foundation, said that candidates to the program are taught such basic skills as the proper chairing of meetings and how to resolve conflicts between the players involved in public health.

"We try to come in and give them valuable tips on how to manage people," Go said. "Bureaucrats, they say, are not efficient. That is only because many do not have the training on how to handle people."

Developing bureaucrats

Zuellig spent on crafting the leadership modules, which are based on the best practices in the corporate sector and how these could be applied in the government setting.

He said that by investing in the Health Leadership and Management Program, Zuellig is confident that it would be able to help develop bureaucrats and equip them with the proper management skills to dispense the kind of service Filipinos deserve.

"We need now a critical mass of people who will think alike," Go said. "Our goal is to help train them to become better bureaucrats."

Zuellig focused on middle managers because they are expected to make better use of the knowledge as they go up the ranks.

Zuellig Foundation spends for the delegates' board and lodging as well as the materials used in the program, while their mother agencies spend for their travel and daily allowance.

Each module lasts for three to five days and is held once a year. Thus, a course participant will complete the training package in three years.

The participants use part of the time in between courses to echo their learning to their colleagues and to apply what they have learned.

"Our long-term goal is to set up something like a health academy for bureaucrats," he said.

The Health Leadership and Management Program is just one of the priority programs of Zuellig Foundation.

Another program is the Substance Abuse Program, which seeks to address drug addiction by providing an education program in the workplace. It uses a specially designed manual covering alcohol abuse, cigarette smoking and methampethamine abuse.

Think tank

The foundation was put up three years ago when the Zuellig group marked the 100th year since Dr. Frederick Edward Zuellig started doing business in the Philippines. The flagship company is Zuellig Pharma Corp., a leading health care distributor in the Philippines.

Go said the foundation was set up as a way for Zuellig to give back to the community. And since health is its area of competence, Zuellig's programs are aimed at making a difference in the country's health and nutrition sectors.

Another key program is the organization of a think tank composed of experts and eminent persons who will conduct policy research and studies on public health issues. When organized, the think tank will be the first of its kind in the country and will fill a major void in solving health problems and policy-making.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 14, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	8,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.75	16.75	16.5	16.5	21,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44.5	44.5	44	44.5	730,800
China Banking Corp.	670	670	670	670	1,640
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	40	40	40	40	7,500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.55	130,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	23.75	24	23.75	23.75	173,400
Philippine National Bank	23	23	23	23	10,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	24	24	24	24	7,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2200	2200	2200	2200	40
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1525	1525	1525	1525	660
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.5	21.5	21.5	21.5	4,400
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	170,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	875	875	855	855	58,560
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.7	1.72	1.7	1.72	4,879,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.18	40,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1050	1050	1030	1040	247,250
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18	18.5	18	18.5	38,500
Manila Electric Co. B	26	27.5	26	27	638,900
Petron Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	3,547,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.36	2.36	2.36	2.36	49,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	50,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	165,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.76	1.8	1.76	1.76	1,642,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	8,013,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29	29	29	4,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	19	19	19	19	329,600
RFM Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	90,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56.5	57	56.5	57	68,000
San Miguel Corp. B	70.5	70.5	70	70	151,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	450,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	8	8	8	8	5,000
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.3	1,734,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	20,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1	1.04	1	1.02	490,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.49	0.52	0.49	0.52	5,630,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	30,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.24	2,260,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.25	22.5	22.25	22.5	481,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.05	900,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.76	1.78	1.76	1.78	505,000
Medco Holdings	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.12	2,355,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	1,820,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	155,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	70,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	29,500
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	100,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	6,000,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	10,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	30,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	38,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	22	22	22	22	34,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	11	11	11	11	900
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	7,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	2,861,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	10,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	2,588,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.185	0.185	0.16	0.16	120,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.185	470,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	20,000
SM Development Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.7	2,720,000
MINING					
Benguet Corp. B	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	250,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,030,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	10,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	2,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	11,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	30,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	11,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	6,000,000

CURRENCIES

April 14, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.836960	1.000000	55.8960
Japan	Yen	0.007854	0.009384	0.5245
United Kingdom	Pound	1.522765	1.819400	101.6972
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.107366	0.128281	7.1704
Switzerland	Franc	0.644113	0.769586	43.0168
Canada	Dollar	0.626984	0.749120	41.8728
Singapore	Dollar	0.501084	0.598695	33.4647
Australia	Dollar	0.631907	0.755002	42.2016
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.220289	2.652801	148.2810
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.223196	0.266674	14.9060
Brunei	Dollar	0.499588	0.596908	33.3648
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000097	0.000116	0.0065
Thailand	Baht	0.021362	0.025523	1.4266
UAE	Dirham	0.227874	0.272264	15.2185
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.194800	66.7845
Argentina	Peso	0.297322	0.355240	19.8565
Brazil	Real	0.290309	0.346861	19.3881
Denmark	Kroner	0.134322	0.160488	8.9706
India	Rupee	0.019161	0.022894	1.2797
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220282	0.263193	14.7114
Mexico	New Peso	0.074429	0.088928	4.9707
New Zealand	Dollar	0.546283	0.652699	36.4833
Norway	Kroner	0.120480	0.143949	8.0462
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014645	0.017498	0.9781
South Africa	Rand	0.127964	0.152891	8.5460
Korea	Won	0.000734	0.000877	0.0490
Sweden	Kroner	0.109079	0.130327	7.2848
Syria	Pound	0.018945	0.022635	1.2652
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025634	0.030628	1.7120
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000437	0.000522	0.0292

Attention: Shareholders of Philex Mining Corporation

The Company is in the process of updating its stockholders records to ensure that all notices of meetings, annual and interim reports, and other correspondences from the company are sent to its shareholders properly.

If there is any change in your mailing address, please advice the Company by filling out the form below and sending it to:

Fidelity Stock Transfers, Inc.
3/F Vernida I Condominium
120 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village
1229 Makati City

or you may fax it to: (632) 818-2370. You can also e-mail to: philex@info.com.ph

Philex Mining Corporation
Stock Transfers, Inc.

Advice of Change of Mailing Address

Stockholder's Name : ____________________
Mailing Address From : ____________________
To : ____________________
Stockholder's Signature : ____________________

DISCLOSURES

NOMINEES for directors of **Tanduay Holdings Inc.** are Lucio C. Tan, Wilson Young, Mariano Tanenglian, James Yu, Lucio K. Tan Jr., Michael Tan, Andres Co, Peter Ong and William Chi Eng Co. The company approved the audited financial statements for 2003, and will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 28, 3 p.m. at the Century Park Hotel, Manila. Stockholders of record as of May 3 will be entitled to notice and vote at the meeting.

* * *

BANKARD Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 27. Beneficial owners as of April 26 will be entitled to notice and vote at the meeting, and closing of transfer books will be on April 27.

* * *

CHINA Banking Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 6, 4 p.m. at the China Bank Bldg., Makati City. Stockholders of record as of April 14 will be entitled to vote in the meeting.

* * *

UNIVERSAL Robina Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 4, 4 p.m. at the Amorsolo Ballroom, Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas, Pasig City. Registration starts at 3 p.m. Stockholders of record as of April 2 will be entitled to vote in the meeting. ***Compiled by Erika Joyce Sarmiento, PDI Research***

Stocks end down for 3rd day

From page B1

"This stem from the continued political anxieties ahead of the May 10 polls and most market participants are simply turning their paper profit into reality as a hedge against these uncertainties." Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT), the country's largest phone firm, fell 1.42 percent or P15 to P1,040, after reaching a year-high of 1,080 on Tuesday.

Second-ranked Globe Telecom Inc dropped 2.84 percent or P25 to P855.

The main index dipped 2.04 points or 0.14 percent to 1,483.43 points. The market is up 2.85 percent so far this year. *Reuters*

Breaktime

From page B2

* * *

AND so at least Philexim is in good hands, except that it still does not attract a lot of business. For one, as I said, it cannot offer full service banking to its clients.

Because it does not earn from other services, Philexim charges quite high fees on those it can offer. Otherwise, it loses money.

If you tap Philexim, say, for a loan guarantee, it charges you a fee of 2 percent of the loan amount. This, in pesos and centavos, is actually a huge amount.

All right, sure, I know that Edeza will come up with something to solve the problem. But the bigger problem is still the structure. Philexim just has to become a bank.

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

Central

SM MEGAMALL
6331901

1	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2	TAKING LIVES
3	TWISTED
4	PAYCHECK
5	PETER PAN
6	50 FIRST DATES
7	SCOOBY DOO 2
8	ACACIA
9	BOOBITA ROSE
10	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
11	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
12	THE UNINVITED

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
2	SCOOBY DOO 2
3	OTSO OTSO
4	PAYCHECK
5	TAKING LIVES
6	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
7	ACACIA
8	PETER PAN
9	BOOBITA ROSE
10	50 FIRST DATES
11	THE UNINVITED
12	TWISTED

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	PAYCHECK
2	TAKING LIVES
3	50 FIRST DATES
4	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
5	PETER PAN
6	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
7	SCOOBY DOO 2
8	ACACIA
9	BOOBITA ROSE
10	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
11	TWISTED
12	UNINVITED

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
2	PETER PAN
3	BOOBITA ROSE
4	ACACIA
5	TWISTED
6	TAKING LIVES
7	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
8	PAYCHECK

SM CITY STA. MESA
7149522 • 7161416

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	UNINVITED
3	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4	TWISTED
5	PAYCHECK
6	ACACIA
7	PETER PAN
8	50 FIRST DATES
9	TAKING LIVES
10	HOUSE OF THE DEAD

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2	PETER PAN
3	BOOBITA ROSE
4	TAKING LIVES

North

SM CITY MARILAO
(044) 933 2013 to 17

1	THE GRUDGE 2
2	SCOOBY DOO 2
3	BOOBITA ROSE
4	PASSION OF THE CHRIST

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2	PAYCHECK
3	ACACIA
4	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
5	THE CURSE
6	BOOBITA ROSE

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464505

1	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2	PETER PAN
3	50 FIRST DATES
4	WATER DEMON

South

SM CITY LAS PIÑAS
8066988

1	TWISTED
2	PETER PAN
3	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4	BOOBITA ROSE
5	THE UNINVITED
6	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
7	SCOOBY DOO 2
8	PAYCHECK
9	TAKING LIVES
10	ACACIA

SM CITY BICUTAN
7763055

1	TAKING LIVES
2	BOOBITA ROSE
3	PETER PAN
4	PASSION OF THE CHRIST

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT
8294975

1	PETER PAN
2	BOOBITA ROSE
3	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4	TAKING LIVES

SM CITY BACOOR
(046)4173868

1	TWISTED
2	PETER PAN
3	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4	ACACIA
5	PAYCHECK
6	BOOBITA ROSE
7	TAKING LIVES
8	HOUSE OF THE DEAD

SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7108977-80

1	SCOOBY DOO 2
2	BONE SNATCHER
3	50 FIRST DATES
4	TORQUE

Visayas & Mindanao

SM CITY CEBU
(032) 2313876

1	LAPU-LAPU (STAGE PLAY)
2	THE GRUDGE 2
3	SCOOBY DOO 2
4	50 FIRST DATES
5	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
6	DIABLO
7	BOOBITA ROSE
8	THE GRUDGE 2

SM CITY ILOILO
(033) 3209422

1	BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2	RESERVED
3	BOOBITA ROSE
4	50 FIRST DATES
5	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
6	HIDALGO
7	RESERVED
8	THE CURSE

SM CITY DAVAO
(082) 2976998

1	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2	THE GRUDGE 2
3	BOOBITA ROSE
4	50 FIRST DATES
5	TORQUE
6	PASSION OF THE CHRIST

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8592884

1	BONE SNATCHER
2	50 FIRST DATES
3	BOOBITA ROSE
4	SCOOBY DOO 2

THE PODIUM CINEMA

1
PETER PAN
11:00 FS/11:30 MF/1:45/
4:00L/6:15/8:30/10:25
LFS/ 10:45 LMF/ 12:40
END

2
THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
11:50 FS/12:20 MF/
3:00/5:40/ 8:20/ 10:30
LFS/ 11:00 LMF/1:10 END

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

SM CINEMA

red carpet event

BEN STILLER OWEN WILSON
"STARSKY & HUTCH"
GOOD COPS. BAD HAIR.
2004

Get your very own "STARSKY & HUTCH" model car!

Submit an 8"x10" photo
of your vintage car (any model)
from April 12-20 at the SM Megamall Cinema Office
10 Lucky entries will win limited edition scale-models
of the Ford Gran Torino
featured in "Starsky & Hutch".

PLUS! All the winners will also walk away with
FREE! Red Carpet Premiere tickets.

Judging day is on April 21 and
the awarding ceremony will take place on April 22, 2004

red carpet premiere happening on
apr22 2004 | 7:30pm
SM MEGAMALL
cinema 1

regular showing | apr28 2004
at the SM Cinemas

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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632-9115 to 16 / 687-0593

Cinema	Movie	Times
CINEMA 1 THX	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
2	PAYCHECK	11.50, 2 20, 4 50, 7 20, 9.50
3	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST	10 50, 1 30, 4.10, 6 50, 9.30
4	PETER PAN	10.15, 12.30, 2 50, 5 10, 7:30, 9.45
5	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	10.35, 12 50, 3 05, 5 20, 7.35, 9 50
6	TAKING LIVES	10.35, 12.50, 3 05, 5 20, 7.35, 9.50
7	50 FIRST DATES	11:55, 2.05, 4:15, 6 25, 8.35, 10:30
8	ACACIA	11 00, 1.10, 3.20, 5 30, 7:40, 9.50
9	TWISTED	10 50, 1.00, 3.10, 5.20, 7.30, 9:40
10	THE UNINVITED	11.00, 1:40, 4 20, 7 00, 9.45

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P100 THX cinema / P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P130 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA
526-7185 / 536-7809 to 12

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5.20, 7:40, 10:00
2	THE UNINVITED	10 10, 12 35, 3 00, 5 20, 7 40, 10.00
3	TAKING LIVES	10.10, 12 25, 2 40, 4.55, 7 10, 9 40
4	TWISTED	11.00, 1 10, 3 20, 5 30, 7 40, 9 50
5	PETER PAN	11.30, 2 00, 4 30, 7 00, 9.40,
6	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	11 00, 1.10, 3 20, 5 30, 7 40, 9.50
7	PAYCHECK	10 35, 12 50, 3 05, 5 20, 7 35, 9.50

Big R Supercenter METRO EAST
682-8193/99 / 682-8280

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	TWISTED	10 50, 12 50, 2:50, 4.50, 6:50, 9.00
2	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST	10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7.15, 10 15
3	THE UNINVITED	11.40, 2 00, 4 20, 6 40, 9 00
4	PETER PAN	10.25, 1 05, 3 15, 6.25, 9.05
5	TAKING LIVES	12 05, 2 15, 4 25, 6 40, 9 00
6	ACACIA	11:00, 1 00, 3 00, 5 00, 7 00, 9:00
7	PAYCHECK	10.25, 1 05, 3 45, 6 25, 9 05-
8	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	10 40, 2 15, 4 50, 7.25, 10 00

Big R Supercenter NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW
935-3229 / 31

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST	12 20, 3 00, 5 40, 8 30
2	TWISTED	12.00, 2 00, 4 00, 6 00, 8:10
3	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	11 45, 1 55, 4 05, 6 15, 8:30
4	TAKING LIVES	11 45, 1:55, 4 05, 6 15, 8 30
5	PAYCHECK	11:20, 1.35, 3 50, 6.05, 8:30
6	ACACIA	11.25, 1 15, 3 05, 4 55, 6 45, 8.35
7	THE UNINVITED	10 20, 12 45, 3 10, 5 35, 8 10
8	PETER PAN	11 20, 1 35, 3 50, 6 05, 8 30

Citisquare MALABON
288-0985/2575

1	PETER PAN
2	TAKING LIVES
3	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
4	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

big Supercenter CAINTA
240-4661

1	TAKING LIVES
2	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
3	PETER PAN
4	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

Big R Supercenter STA. ROSA
Laguna (049)837-0907

1	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2	TAKING LIVES
3	PETER PAN
4	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
5	PAYCHECK

Big R Supercenter LIPA
757-3664 / 312-5870

1	HIGHWAYMEN
2	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
3	THE GRUDGE 2
4	TAKING LIVES
5	HIDALGO

Big R Supercenter DASMARIÑAS
852-2125

1	TAKING LIVES
2	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
3	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
4	HIDALGO
5	HIGHWAYMEN

Big R Supercenter STARMILLS
San Fernando Pampanga
875-1927 / 961-5270

1	ACACIA
2	THE CURSE
3	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
4	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
5	PAYCHECK
6	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

IMUS
471-8188 / 875-5858

1	PAYCHECK
2	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
3	TWISTED
4	TAKING LIVES
5	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
6	PETER PAN

BACOLOD
441-0458/59

1	50 FIRST DATES
2	WISE GIRLS
3	HIGHWAYMEN
4	BONE SNATCHER
5	RUNAWAY JURY
6	THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

ILOILO
336-8070/78

1	HIDALGO
2	50 FIRST DATES
3	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
4	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
5	THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT
6	THE CURSE

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Ang tagumpay natin ay todo-todo

PRUDENTIAL

Day 1

Kapamilya Karavan at Kapatiran

- Prudentialakbay Kaway
- Lakbay Parade on Session Road
- Regional Parade of Colors
- Cultural Dance Presentation
- Exchange of tokens by the regional offices
- Live Musical Band

Day 2

Kagalingan at Gabi ng mga Kampeon

- Thanksgiving Mass
- Prudentialife City and Countryside Tours
- Opening of the Flea Market
- Gabi ng Parangal: The Awards Night
  - Corporate Video Presentation
  - New Prudentialife Products Launch
  - Awarding of Sales Olympics Champions
  - The President's Address

Day 3 - Katuwaan at Kasiyahan

- Prudentialife Agricultural and Ecological Tours
- An evening of entertainment

TOP 10 SALES ASSOCIATES

Nonita V. Rodelas
Patrick L. Tan
Emmanuel R. Dela Cruz
Adelaida G. Valientes
Carmencita M. Velasco
Imelda M. Mazan
Rosa N. Goco
Antonette D. Tuazon
Roderick S. dela Peña
Marie Charisse D. Asuncion

TOP 5 AREA MANAGERS

Natividad B.Taguinod
Porfirio V. Cabasisi
Joselito M. Villegas
Adelma T. Pasion
Lourdes A. Sagsagat

National Sales Olymp

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has not approved this advertisement or determined if this is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary constitutes a

kaya't magsaya tayo sa Baguio!

AKBAY 2004

GUIO

April 14-17, 2004

Once again, we celebrate Prudentialakbay, an annual event of recognition and reward for the loyal and dedicated salesforce of Prudentialife.

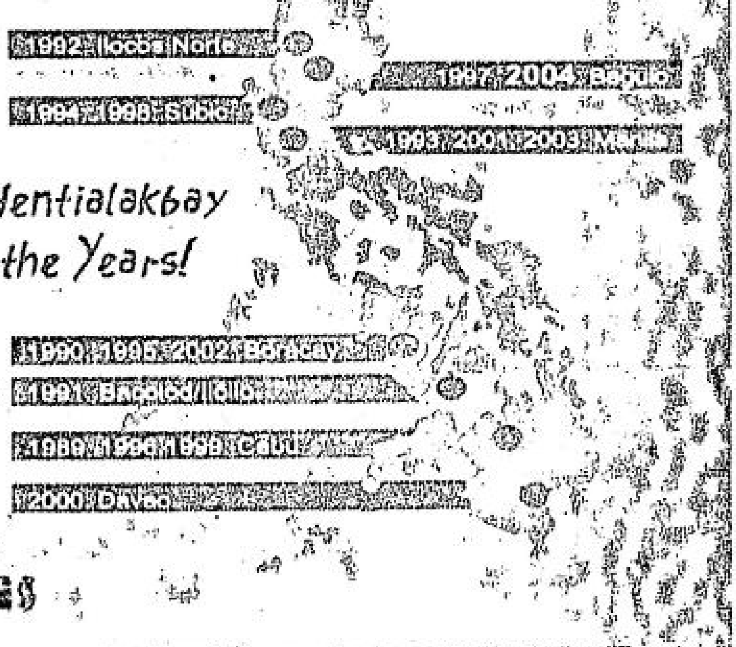
"We come together at Prudentialakbay Baguio to celebrate the fruits of our prayers and hard work in the past year. As one big happy family, I enjoin everyone to have fun, enjoy the activities and recognize the year's sales olympics champions. The dedicated and loyal men and women of Prudentialife are the prime reason why we are the leading Filipino pre-need company in the country today. It is through their whole-hearted support that we will continue to serve the Filipino family and help them live the good life."

Jose Alberto T. Alba
President
Prudentialife Plans, Inc.

TOP 10 AGENCY MANAGERS

Ma. Katherine L. Nubla
Juliet D. Kotoken
Precila F. Villegas
Ma. Cecilia G. Estrella
Aurora V. Lumang
Lolita P. del Carmen
Catalina M. Gunay
Consolacion M. Barca
Elsie D. Dondoyano
Eleuteria M. Buhay

Follow the Prudentialakbay Trail through the Years!



WOWPHILIPPINES

Every year for the past 15 years, the company has brought its annual sales convention to the different tourist destinations of the country such as Manila, Pagsanjan, Fort Ilocandia, La Union, Baguio, Subic, Cebu, Bacolod/Iloilo, Boracay and Davao. This year, Prudentialife is coming to Baguio to hold this event which is included in the Department of Tourism's local schedule for the month of April. This is Prudentialife's way of helping promote domestic tourism among our sales people and the communities where they operate.

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ics Champions 2003

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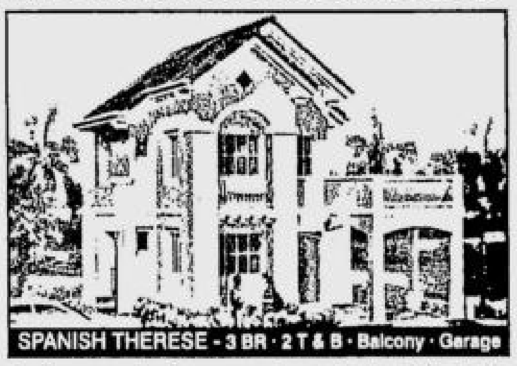

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late MIGUEL Z. BERBA has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement identified as Doc. No. 176, Page No. 37, Book No. 2, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Rodel R. Nayve. (PDI-April 1, 8 & 15, 2004)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given of the lost S2 License #893159 under Camilo M. Garma

Notice is given that Wack Wack Golf & Country Club Stock Cert. No. 559 issued to Benjamin S. Abalos, Sr. have been lost. If no contest is received new certificate will be issued. (PDI 4/ 1, 8 & 15, 2004)

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Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on April 29, 2004, 2:00 p.m. at the DBP Head Office Auditorium, Sen. Gil Puyat cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION		MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE				
METRO MANILA				
	Columbian International Towers Condominium, No. 500 Santol Road, Sta. Mesa	Condominium units:		
CWB-29 a		88 m² (CCT No. 49957), Suite 10-B	P	2,112,000.00
CWB-29 b		97.05 m² (CCT No. 49956), Suite 2-C	P	1,552,800.00
BATAAN				
	Sta.Monica Homes, Sitio Wiswis Camaya, Mariveles:	Residential lots with bldg. & Imprvmts:		
AMD-ML-142	Lot - 25 & 28 Blk -20	100 m² TCT Nos. T-229478 & T-229476	P	277,000.00
AMD-ML-143	Lot - 11 Blk - 9	50 m² TCT No. T-229486	P	183,700.00
BATANGAS				
AMD-ML-144	Bo. Natu, Rosario	4 contiguous agricultural lots (TCT Nos. T-118608 to T-118611) 89,371 m²	P	6,618,600.00
AMD-ML-145	Corner J.B. Zuño and L. Corachea Sts., Brgy. Namuco, Rosario	90 m² commercial lot (TCT-118604) with bldg. & imprvmnts.	P	1,658,600.00
		Untitled agricultural riceland:		
AMD-ML-146a)	Tilambo, Taysan	44,560 m² (ARP No. 20-00743)	P	3,119,200.00
AMD-ML-146b)		21,445 m² (ARP No. 20-00742)	P	1,501,800.00
AMD-ML-146c)		21,662 m² (ARP No. 20-00741)	P	1,516,300.00
BULACAN				
AMD-ML-147	Brgy. Santol, Balagtas	2 adjoining agro-industrial lots (TCT Nos. 421182 & 421183) 31,400 m² with bldg. & imprvmts.	P	16,784,400.00
CWB-4	Bo. Palimbang, Calumpit	690 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-162779) with bldg. & imprvmts.	P	1,994,900.00
CAVITE				
	Acacia Homes, Area C, Brgy. Burol III, Dasmariñas	Residential lots with bldg. & Imprvmts:		
AMD-ML-148	Lot - 6 Blk - 12	50 m² TCT No. T-1063276	P	178,000.00
AMD-ML-149	Lot -12 Blk - 9	80 m² TCT No. T-1063380	P	241,000.00
AMD-ML-150	Lot - 6 Blk - 2	80 m² TCT No. T-1063277	P	241,000.00
AMD-ML-151	Brgy. Talon, Amadeo	1,151 m² agro-residential lot (TD-02-025-00067-R) with bldg. & imprvmts.	P	790,000.00
LAGUNA				
	San Carlos Village (Maria Luisa Subd., Phase II), Brgy. Banay-Banay, Cabuyao	Residential lots with bldg. & Imprvmts.:		
AMD-ML-152	Lot - 26 Blk - 5	50 m² TCT No. T-536563	P	239,600.00
AMD-ML-153	Lot - 12 Blk - 2	71 m² TCT No. T-536566	P	349,700.00
QUEZON				
AMD-ML-154	Bo. Pili, Sariaya	2 parcels agro-residential lots (TCT Nos. 382136 & 382093) 76,442 m² with bldg. & imprvmts.	P	4,900,900.00
PANGASINAN				
AMD-ML-155	Pagal District, San Carlos City	4 adjoining industrial lots (TCT Nos. 32082 to 32085) 11,200 m² with bldg. & imprvmts.	P	12,000,000.00
RIZAL				
AMD-PY-156	Lincoln Drive, Bo. Mayamot Antipolo City	8 parcels residential lots (TCT Nos. 317013 to 317020) 5,029 m² with bldg. & imprvmts.	P	7,938,700.00
CHATTELS (sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)				
AMD-EL-157	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	One (1) unit Milling Machine, Cincinatti No. 4	P	53,700.00
AMD-EL-158	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	One (1) lot various abaca rope making machinery and equipment	P	7,500,000.00
AMD-EL-159	617 Bagumbayan St., Bacood, Sta. Mesa, Manila	Various printing machinery and equipment	P P	20,000.00 to 348,000.00
AMD-EL-160	Brgy. Paho, Libertad, Antique	One (1) Mobile Crane and other marble making machinery and equipment	P P	3,000.00 to 762,500.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2218/2252 for Code starting with AMD; and
926-1686 or 818-9511 loc. 1411 for CWB

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – April 15 & 16, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **MR. FRANCIS KAVINTA**, whose picture appears above is no longer connected with **YMCA of Makati, Inc.** Any transaction made or entered into by him after February 6, 2004 will not be honored by the Association.

THE MANAGEMENT

(PDI – April 15, 2004)

STUDY AND EARN!!

Avail of our scholarship program for caregiver and Japanese language. Chance to study and work in Japan.

Candidates must be:
Female, 18-26 years old, at least high school graduate

Orientation:
Monday - Friday, 9-6 p.m.

Deadline for orientation, screening would be April 26, 2004 then final screening on May 1, 2004.

APM TRAINING CENTER, INC.
#12 Kasing-Kasing St., cor. K-9th St.,
Kamias, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 259-0517 / 435-6849 / 435-6960

POEA

24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144
722-1155

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO BID

FOR THE SALE OF UNSERVICEABLE/SCRAP ALUMINUM CONDUCTORS (ACSR) ("AS IS WHERE IS")

DATE & TIME OF BIDDING : April 23, 2004 at 10:00 AM
PRE-BIDDING CONFERENCE : April 16, 2004 at 2:00 PM

The National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon O&M invites interested parties to bid on various unserviceable/scrap ACSR listed below:

LOT#	Description of Unserviceable Item	Location	Est. Qty	Unit Price	Minimum Bid
1	Unserviceable/scrap ACSR, with core 795 MCM	Batangas S/S	10 tons	P90.00/kg	P900,000.00
2	Unserviceable/scrap ACSR, with core, various sizes	Dasmariñas S/S	15 tons	P90.00/kg	P1,350,000.00
3	Unserviceable/scrap ACSR, 795 & 336.4 MCM Without Core –	Tayabas S/S	2.5 tons	P97.00/kg	P242,500.00
4	With Core –	Tayabas S/S	77.5 tons	P90.00/kg	P6,975,000.00
5	With Core –	EHV Kalayaan	20 tons	P90.00/kg	P1,800,000.00
6	Unserviceable/scrap ACSR, with core 795 MCM	Naga S/S	10 tons	P90.00/kg	P900,000.00

NOTE: Actual weighing shall be conducted during withdrawal.

Bids in the prescribed form shall be enclosed in two sealed envelopes and shall be received until 10:00 AM, April 23, 2004 afterwhich said bids shall be opened in the presence of attending bidders. No bids shall be received after said time & date. All bids must be submitted at the Bidding Room, Transco – SL O&M Regional Office, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna with the following:

First Envelope
1. Bidder's Bond in the form of Cash, Manager's Check equivalent to 10% of total bid price.
2. Latest Income Tax Return (CY 2003) stamped/receipt by the BIR.

Second Envelope:
1. Bid Offer in the Transco prescribed form

Additional information such as Request for Inspection and Bid Form may be obtained starting April 15, 2004 from Administration-Warehouse/MMS Office with Telephone No. (02) 520-8213. Payment of the prescribed form and other particulars is P100.00 per set which is not refundable.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formalities found therein and accept offers most advantageous to TRANSCO.

(Sgd.) R.D. RAMAS
Manager, Administration
& Chairman, RAMSUC

(PDI-April 15, 2004)

BILLBOARD FOR RENT

Prime Billboard site along Edsa facing Mandaluyong,
High exposure for vehicles going to Makati, Pasay, Baclaran
60 x 40 vertical billboard

For inquiries,
please call Anthony at 750-7496

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SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
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OBITUARIES

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Mortuary and Crematory opening soon!

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven..." Ecclesiastes 3:1

Emiliana Villegas vda. de Manaluz

Joined our Almighty Creator on April 11, 2004 at the age of 99.

Her children **Abel** (†), **Quirino**, **Atanacio** (†), **Ramon Nonato**, **Carmen**, **Mauricia**, **Clemente** (†), **Naciancena**, **Agripino**, their spouses; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at 56 Sampaguita St., Maligaya Park Subdivision, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, April 15, 2004 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 8:30 a.m. Requiem Mass at St. Francis Xavier Parish Church.

ADORABLE "GEORGE" OLANDAY

Barangay Captain, 45 C, San Isidro, Pasay City
Peacefully joined his Creator on April 13, 2004
at the age of 72.

His loving wife **CECILIA**, children **Geocel** and **Jay**; **Emilie** and **Raul**; **Susiely** and **Kurtis**; **Larcy** and **Bot**; **George** and **Tess**; **Gary** and **Nelda**; grandchildren, brother, sisters, relatives and friends request everyone to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Bethany Chapel, Rizal Funeral Homes at 438 Cementina cor. Libertad Sts., Pasay City where Holy Mass will be celebrated every evening at 7:00 PM.

On Saturday, April 17, 2004, Holy Mass will be celebrated at San Isidro Parish Church, Taft Avenue, Pasay City at 10:30 AM. Cremation will take place at the Holy Trinity Chapel, Sucat, Parañaque City at 1:00 PM and entombment of his remain will follow thereafter at San Isidro Parish Church.

REYNALDO LACDAO GALANG

(Cabiao, Nueva Ecija)

Peacefully joined his Creator
on April 14, 2004 at the age of 81.

His brothers **Dr. Luis Galang** spouse **Anna**; **Isagani Galang** spouse **Mercedez**; nephews and nieces **Dr. Dennis**, **Raymond**, **May**, **Anthony**, **Dr. Ferdinand**, **Dr. Christopher** and **Gina Galang**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies at the family home in Natividad Street, Cabiao, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on Saturday, April 17, 2004 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Cabiao, Nueva Ecija.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

Severino L. Koh, Ph.D.

of Columbia, Maryland, USA
January 8, 1927 - April 8, 2004

Beloved husband to **PAZ L. ONGJOCO KOH**, devoted father of **AMELITA & WILLIAM CHANG**, **BERNADETTE KOH & NOREEN RICHARDS**, **CYNTHIA & K. SCOTT KNOX**, **DOROTHY** (†), **EVANGELINE & NICK BROWN II**, dear brother of **EUSEBIO L. KOH**, **ALEJANDRO L. KOH**, **ESPERANZA SY**, and **ELVIRA KOH**; loving grandfather of **PAZ J. & ANNA F. LUNCSFORD**, **C'KOH P.** and **KOH S. KNOX**, **KEY N. & NICKY L. BROWN III**.

On-line condolences may be left at www.mem.com.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Dr. Severino L. Koh to UMBC College of Engineering or to Purdue University Aeronautics and Astronautics Engineering.

We design **OBITUARIES** for free.

ALAN SAN LUIS FERRERA

Of San Antonio Village, Makati City

peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 42
on April 12, 2004

His loving parents **Colonel & Mrs. Wenceslao A. Ferrera**, his brother **Albert**, sisters & brothers-in-law, **Me-Ann Ferrera**, **Taba & Kiko Villaruel**, **Atoy & Apollo Llagas**, **Owa & Marc de Guzman**, his wife **Estrella** and children **Nina**, **Myka**, **Ana** and **Chris**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Chapel 4, Sacred Heart Street near corner Kamagong Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, April 18, 2004 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque at 3:00 p.m. after the 1:00 p.m. Holy Mass at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

CLASSIFIEDS

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF SCRAP METALS AND WASTE OIL

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING: **APRIL 30, 2004** TIME: **2:00 PM** PLACE: **MMD, NPC HO, DILIMAN, QC.**

The National Power Corporation will conduct a public bidding for the sale of the following items:

Item	Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1.	One (1) Lot - Junk and Scrap Metals consisting of Unserviceable, Used and Retired Plant Parts (per Listing and Pictures attached to the Bid Forms) Located at TIWI GPP, Tiwi, Albay Province.	P 4,692,704.00/Lot
2.	One (1) Lot - Waste Oil consisting of Used Lube Oil and Sludge Oil, approximately 300,000 liters and stored at Tanks 1 & 2, Settling/De-watering Basins, and Pipeline at Pinamucan DPP, Batangas City.	P 600,000.00/Lot

ALL OFFERS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN THE BID FORM WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. **PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE.**
2. **LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (2003, original or BIR certified true copy).**
3. **FOR BIDDERS OF ITEM NO. 2, EMB-DENR ACCREDITATION AS WASTE TRANSPORTER AND WASTE TREATER IS REQUIRED.**

All interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid forms upon presentation of a valid Tax Identification Card or Income Tax Return and payment of P500.00 / set which is non-refundable.For inquiries see or call Mr. S. V. Lomuntad, Jr. at MMD, NPC Head Office, corner Agham Road and Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City with Tel. No. 924-5384.

Inspection and actual sounding of waste oil shall be held on April 28, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. at Pinamucan Diesel Power Plant. All prospective bidders are required to be present on this date to witness the sounding of the waste oil. Also, all bidders are required to secure certification from Pinamucan DPP that they attended the sounding of the waste oil.

Deadline for the issuance of the bid forms is on April 27, 2004 until 4:30 p.m.

For the Materials Management Department

(Sgd.) **FELIX B. TACATA, JR.**
OIC, MMD

(PDI - April 15, 16 & 17, 2004)

8th national PREX convention

THE National Association of Parish PREX Secretariats (NAPPS) is holding its 8th National Prex Convention on April 16 to 18, 2004 at the Easter College Gymnasium, Guisad Road, Baguio City for graduates of Parish Renewal Experience (PREX) classes of various parishes all over the Philippines. All graduates are invited to attend.

The convention will tackle its theme, "The Call to Holiness."

For further particulars / inquiries, please contact the Prex Secretariats in your respective Parishes or the NAPPS at Tel. (02) 939-9543, 936-9349; Fax (02) 461-3016; E-mail: fairview@prex.napps.org or Kuya Mike Yu at (0917) 810-0352 (Publicity Coordinator).

A one-of-a-kind summer event!

O'DEA International School aims to support activities that are geared to help socio-civic organizations which contribute to community building and development through educational and fun-filled programs.

This summer O'Dea International School is holding a free admissions event called "Yaya and Me: A Behavioral Management Training for Yaya" on April 12 to the 30th and May 3 to the 28th. Yaya gets a free behavior management training while the child gets to attend the summer program at O'Dea also for free. (Open for kids ages 2 to 10 years only).

Peace and order originates in the family and thus the importance of this program. The event aims to provide and implement activities that is fun, interactive and educational which will give an impact to the learning experience of children as well as build a strong bond among parents, and their helpers who are already part of the Filipino household.

For more information please contact O'Dea International School at 895-6246 or 895-4904.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region V, Legazpi City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR TRUCKING/HAULING SERVICES FOR NFA REGION V

The National Food Authority, Regional Office No. V, Pier Site, Legazpi City invites qualified Trucking/Hauling Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provisions of Trucking/Hauling Services for NFA grains and sugar.

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

	Activity	Date	Time
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	April 13-19, 2004	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
2.	Pre-Bid Conference	April 20, 2004	1:00 PM
3.	Deadline for Submission of Bids/Eligibility Check and Opening of Bids	April 27, 2004	10:00 AM

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents may be obtained from RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-transferable/ non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00).

Other inquiries may be addressed to the Office of the Assistant Regional Director, NFA Regional Office No. V, Pier Site, Legazpi City with telephone numbers (052) 480-7399 / 480-7015 / 480-7085 / 820-0018 and fax number (052) 480-7900.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **JOSE B. GUEVARA**
Assistant Regional Director/
Chairman, Bidding Committee

(PDI - April 15 & 16 2004)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region V, Legazpi City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR FREIGHT SERVICES FOR NFA REGION V

The National Food Authority, Regional Office No. V, Pier Site, Legazpi City invites qualified Vessel Owners to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provisions of Freight Services for the following routes:

a) Tabaco Port - Virac Port
b) Tabaco Port - Masbate City Port
c) Legazpi Port - Virac Port
d) Legazpi Port - Masbate City Port

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

	Activity	Date	Time
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	April 13-19, 2004	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
2	Pre-Bid Conference	April 20, 2004	10:00 AM
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(Sgd.) **JOSE B. GUEVARA**
Assistant Regional Director/
Chairman, Bidding Committee

(PDI - April 15 & 16, 2004)

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

The **National Food Authority (NFA)** is inviting all eligible palay Farmers' Organizations (FOs) to participate in the distribution of rice under the **"INSTITUTIONALIZED FARMERS AS DISTRIBUTORS" (IFAD)** Program of the National Food Authority.

All interested parties are advised to accomplished a Letter of Intent (LOI), copies of which are available at the NFA Provincial Offices in their respective areas, to be submitted within ten (10) working days after the last day of publication. They should likewise meet the following qualifications:

- Must be operational and registered with any of the appropriate registering agencies as listed below:
  - Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)
  - Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
  - Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR)
  - Bureau of Rural Workers (BRW)
  - National Irrigation Administration (NIA)
- Must be a member of a local farmers' action council or the Philippine Farmers' Advisory Board (PFAB).
- Must be a holder of NFA license as retailer/wholesaler and other incidental lines of activities, i.e., warehousing and transporting, if any.
- Must be a holder of Certificate of Operations and Good Standing issued by the appropriate registering agency, to be submitted to the concerned NFA Provincial Office.

Specifically, the NFA has allocated a total volume of some 1,000,000 bags of rice, 25% BKN, for this Program distributed among regions as follows:

Region	Allocation
NCR	4,700
Ilocos Region	93,200
Cagayan Valley	130,200
Central Luzon	139,900
Southern Tagalog	89,400
Bicol	68,100
Western Visayas	144,700
Central Visayas	21,700
Eastern Visayas	56,700
Western Mindanao	42,000
Northern Mindanao	47,400
Southern Mindanao	61,800
Central Mindanao	57,100
ARMM	43,100

For details, they may coordinate with the nearest NFA Office in their respective areas. For further inquiries, they may visit or contact NFA-DMO located at the 5th Flr., Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue. Quezon City with telephone nos. 712-1572, 712-1708 or 712-1564.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ARTHUR C. YAP**
Administrator

(PDI April 14, 15 & 16 2004)

ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB, INC.

TO ALL ACCI MEMBERS:

Please be advised that the Stockholders' Meeting scheduled for today, 13 April 2004, has been moved to Tuesday, 4 May 2004. The Nomination and Election Committee has noted an unusually large number of questionable proxies submitted. Accordingly, it has sought an extension of time to allow it to conduct a more thorough validation process of the proxies.

Thank you for your understanding.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LIFE UNDERWRITERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

2004 ANNUAL CONVENTION
20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

BEYOND
20/20
BIGGER
THAN
LIFE!

Twenty years ago, the Life Underwriters Association of the Philippines embarked on a seemingly difficult journey to gather life insurance agents to join an association dedicated to professionalize the industry, determined to educate its members and committed to high ethical standards in the practice of its profession.

Today, the LUA-P is proud to celebrate its 20th anniversary, pleased to see an industry grown and professional life insurance agents poised to conquer the field of financial planning and advisory. Indeed, we have made progress and assured ourselves of our place in the sun.

Now, it is time to rededicate ourselves and go beyond our own interests and industry. Now, in the dawn of another 20 years of LUA-P, let us consciously focus our energies in helping our nation build a society of responsible citizens of the Philippines and of the world, and promoting a peaceful and healthy environment for future generations to come.

It is time to aspire for goals higher than fading medals and fleeting recognition; for a purpose beyond laurels and accolades. It is time to experience the exhilarating joy of serving beyond the success of a job marked by professional excellence. It is time to strive for equitable apportionment of wealth and treasure beyond practical economics; to advocate for an enlightened and heroic leadership beyond political or ideological consideration. It is time to envisage a people using skills and resources beyond personal advancement; nurturing values beyond profits and material gain; imbibing knowledge and wisdom beyond glowing achievements.

It is time to invest on things BIGGER than Life!

Reliability. Protection. Stability. Growth.

For over 100 years, the Sun Life Financial name has stood for all these.

And knowing that you have a strong, resilient and ever reliable company behind you every step of the way, you and your loved ones can now happily look forward to a brighter and secure future.

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Sun
Life Financial
Because trust is earned

In the Philippines, Sun Life Financial is represented by Sun Life of Canada (Philippines), Inc., offering life insurance products; Sun Life Asset Management Company, Inc., manager and distributor of the Sun Life Prosperity Funds, and Sun Life Financial Plans, Inc., offering education and pension plans.

Messages

I CONVEY my cordial greetings to the men and women of the Life Underwriters Association of the Philippines on your 18th Annual Convention with the theme, "Beyond 20/20: Bigger than Life!"

I commend you for spearheading this event. This convention will provide the participants and stakeholders of the insurance industry in the country with the equal opportunities for growth and development in the field of financial planning and advisory.

Your initiative to stimulate the dynamic participation of underwriters, financial advisers, and insurance agents is relevant to our present thrust to build a society of responsive citizens who will strive to promote a progressive economic environment for future generations. Through our unity and cooperation, we will succeed in bringing about positive social reform and a better life for the Filipinos.

May this event serve as a mechanism to strengthen the insurance industry in the country and spur more worthy endeavors for the attainment of a stronger and just Philippine Republic.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

MY WARM felicitation to the management and staff of the Life Underwriters Association of the Philippines on its 18th Annual Sales Convention and 20th anniversary celebration.

The insurance industry continues to play a significant role in the improvement of the Philippine economy and the lives of the Filipino people. It has generated funds for business activities while promoting among our people the concept or planning today for a secure future. It is well noting too that the Life Underwriters Association of the Philippines is one of the leading players and allies of government in providing the Filipinos a secure future.

Following the decade's financial and political crises that sent economies worldwide plunging, we believe that recovery is under way as we look forward to an improving economy of the country. Coupled with the growing awareness among Filipinos of the importance of insurance, this recovery gives us hope for a brighter future. With improved incomes, more and more Filipinos are beginning to recognize the wisdom of securing the future through an insurance policy. In this aspect, LUA-P should be ready to meet such a growing need and awareness among our people.

I hope that LUA-P will continue its vision of service beyond the success of a job marked by professional excellence in insurance underwriting. May I also take this' opportunity to extend my personal greetings to the year's outstanding achievers in insurance selling.

More power in the many years to come for this dynamic industry.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

JUANITA D. AMATONG
Secretary, Department of Finance

WARMEST felicitations to the Life Underwriters Association of the Philippines on its annual convention celebrating its 20th anniversary. Two decades of continuous service to our career agents and to the business of life insurance is no mean feat. It is a period of excellent partnership with the industry with the Association providing immeasurable contribution in the area of education through its conventions, sales clinics and through LUTC.

Its theme "Beyond 20/20: Bigger than Life!" is a testimony to the obstacles it has surpassed and the objectives is has accomplished over the years. It also foretells of loftier goals, nobler aspirations and greater challenges that is prepared to meet in the years to come.

The life insurance industry is made richer by organizations such as the Life Underwriters Association of the Philippines as it continues to serve its membership for the peace of mind and the ultimate welfare of the general public.

Congratulations!

EDUARDO T. MALINIS
Officer-In-Charge

OUR theme Beyond 20/20 BIGGER than LIFE! offers a new challenge to the Association--to build on our culture of excellence and extend this commitment beyond success in our profession to a higher level of service.

Nothing could embody this meaning more than the distinguished men and women with stories beyond personal achievements, whom we have invited to speak in these days of our convention.

The Life Underwriters Association celebrates its 20th Anniversary with confidence that the next decade will be another fulfilling prophecy of growth in number, in value and commitment.

Here's a hearty cheer for LIFE!

NENETTE N. ASENIERO
LUA President

fortune life

FORTUNE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.
Fortune Life Building, 162 Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.
Tel Nos.: 892-98-41 to 49 (connecting all departments) Fax no.: 812-18-32 E-mail:fortlife@fortunelife.com
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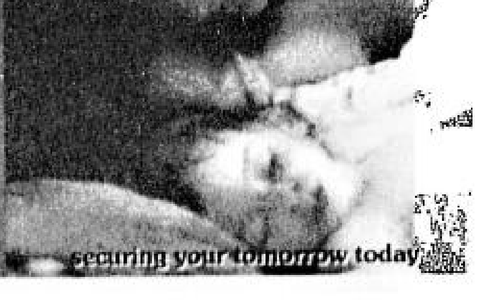

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FOREIGN SPEAKERS

His Excellency Former President Fidel V. Ramos Keynote Speaker

Teng Luen Foong, Chairman of Asia Pacific Life Insurance Council

Dale Smith Thomas, President of Tennessee Speakers Association

Paul O' Brien, Past President of the Financial Planners and Insurance Advisers Association, NZ

LIFE UNDERWRITERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
CONVENTION 2004
Westin Philippine Plaza

PROGRAMME

April 15, 2004
Thursday

EVENTS/TITLES	MAIN PLATFORM SPEAKERS	VENUE
Registration & Breakfast		Grand Ballroom
Opening Ceremonies		Grand Ballroom
Invocation	Mr. Frankie & Ms. Fenina Aseniero	Grand Ballroom
National Anthem	LUAP kids	Grand Ballroom
Opening Number	LUAP kids	Grand Ballroom
Opening Remarks	Ms. Alice Lao O, LUTCF	Grand Ballroom
President's Address	Ms. Nenette N. Aseniero	Grand Ballroom
Theme Message	Ms. Esther C. Tan, CLU, ChFC, FLMI	Grand Ballroom
20 Years Of LUAP	Ms. Avelina "Belen" G. De Jesus, LUTCF	Grand Ballroom
Introduction of keynote Speaker	Commissioner Eduardo T. Malinis	Grand Ballroom
Keynote Message - "Phils. Beyond Politics"	Former President Fidel V. Ramos	Grand Ballroom
"30 Years is Too Long to Stay in One Job, but Too Short for a Lifetime Commitment"	Ms. Lourdes "Lulu" M. Del Mundo, LUTCF	Grand Ballroom
Presentation of ACE/MDRT/LUTCF		Grand Ballroom
LUNCH BREAK		Grand Ballroom
BREAK-OUT SESSIONS		
Selling Scope Unlimited	Mr. Teng Luen Foong	Grand Ballroom
Estate Planning	Atty. Rachel P. Follosco	Leyte/Samar
How to Maintain a Mega Agency in the 22nd Century	Mr. Isagani Antonio	Romblon/Mindoro
Estate Planning	Mr. Ruperto P. Somera, Ph.D., DBA, CPA	Grand Ballroom
More than Partners	Mr. Reynaldo F. Paris, FLMI	Leyte/Samar
10 Keys to Carry Everyday as Agents	Ms. Susan Vidal	Romblon/Mindoro
SNACKS		
Middle Earth Experience	Mr. Paul O'Brien	Grand Ballroom
The Game of Your Life & How to Play it	Ms. Dale S. Thomas	Grand Ballroom
Colors of my Life	Ms. Roselle R. Ambubuyog	Grand Ballroom
ASIAN CIRLE OF EXCELLENCE (ACE) DINNER	Ms. Remedios A. Armendi, MAT, LUTCF	Grand Ballroom
	Mr. Augustus M. Ferreria, LUTCF	
Message	Ms. Nancy D. Baluyut	

Past Presidents Council

Avelina G. De Jesus, *LUTCF*
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1990

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1991

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1992

Enrique A. Capule
LUTCF
1993

Teresita D. Dada
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1994

Salvador C. Cabael
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1995

Nancy D. Baluyut
1996

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1997

Remedios O. Viloria
LUTCF
1998

Betty A. Cepeda
1999

Efren Jose I. Arnaldo
LUTCF
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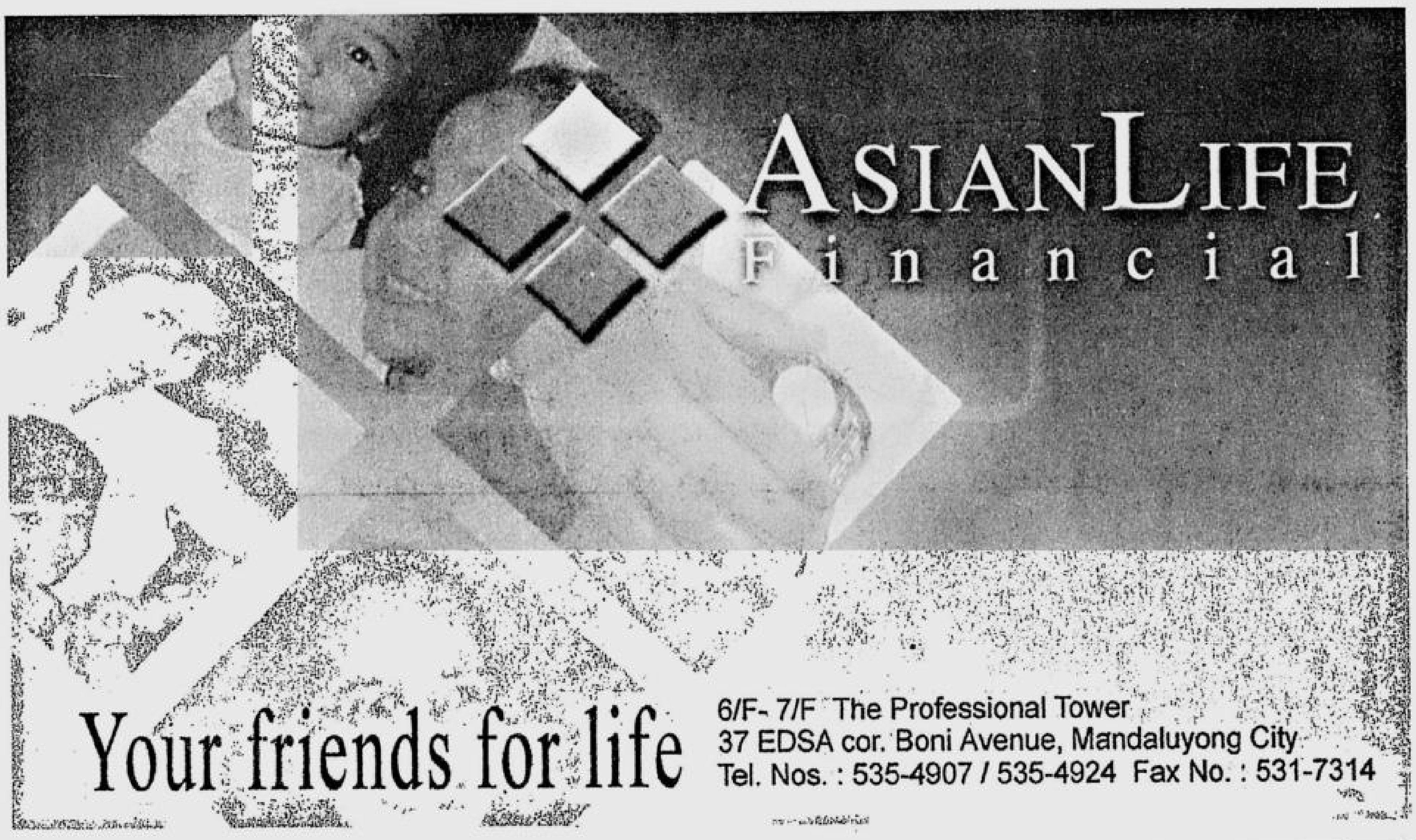
Remedios A. Armendi
LUTCF, MAT
2001

Felicisimo N. Geronimo Jr.
LUTCF
2002

Alicia Lao O
LUTCF
2003



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BUSINESS

RP exports to S. Korea reach ₱1.3 B, says official

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday called on South Korean businessmen to buy more Philippine goods as exports to the East Asian country reached $1.3 billion in 2003.

Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said the government hoped to close the gap between exports to and imports from South Korea, which amounted to $2.4 billion last year.

During the recently held annual membership meeting of the Korean Chamber of Commerce Philippines Inc., Purisima said there was an urgent need to enhance RP-Korean bilateral trade to address the long-running series of deficit in Korea's favor and expand the Philippine share of the Korean market.

South Korea, the country's ninth-largest export market, has been buying semiconductors, parts and accessories of automatic data processing machines, refined copper cathodes, storage units and petroleum naphtha.

In turn, the country imports cellular phones, semiconductors and materials for the manufacture of semiconductor devices, and parts or accessories of automatic data processing machines.

Purisima said that aside from electronics, other products that have strong potential for export to Korea include gifts, toys and houseware, fashion accessories and costume jewelry, and food products such as fresh fruits, seafoods and processed fruits and marine products.

"There have been substantial Korean investments into the country and we encourage them to continue to locate their offshore manufacturing here," the official said.

Consolidated data from different government investment agencies show that Korean direct investments have slipped to P712 million in 2003 after growing from P442 million in 1995 to P1.3 billion in 2002.

Philippine-based Korean firms are engaged in the manufacture of construction materials, clothing and fashion accessories, chemicals, textiles and leather, engineering products, transport equipment, processed foods and beverages, toys and sporting goods.

Purisima said that the Department of Trade and Industry would push for a bill that would grant incentives on capital equipment for export-oriented businesses outside economic zones but registered with the Board of Investments.

Metro Pacific sues for time

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

METRO Pacific Corp. (MPC) has requested for a 15-day extension to submit its financial statements since it has not completed combining the performances of its subsidiaries.

The move came after MPC's shipping unit Negros Navigation Co. filed a petition for corporate rehabilitation before a Manila trial court.

MPC said in its letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission that possible audit adjustments may result from Nenaco's petition to rehabilitate its operations.

Nenaco earlier obtained a stay order from the Manila court preventing its creditors from trying to seize any of the company's assets while it is going through financial recovery.

Nenaco had said it has obtained the nod of the court to appoint bank shipping specialist and former Camella Homes chair Sulficio Tagud Jr. as rehabilitation receiver who will be tasked to oversee Nenaco's financial transactions during the rehabilitation.

In their petition, Nenaco officials said that they found it difficult to pay its debts to creditors after the shipping firm was badly hit by the Asian currency crisis and the devaluation of the peso.

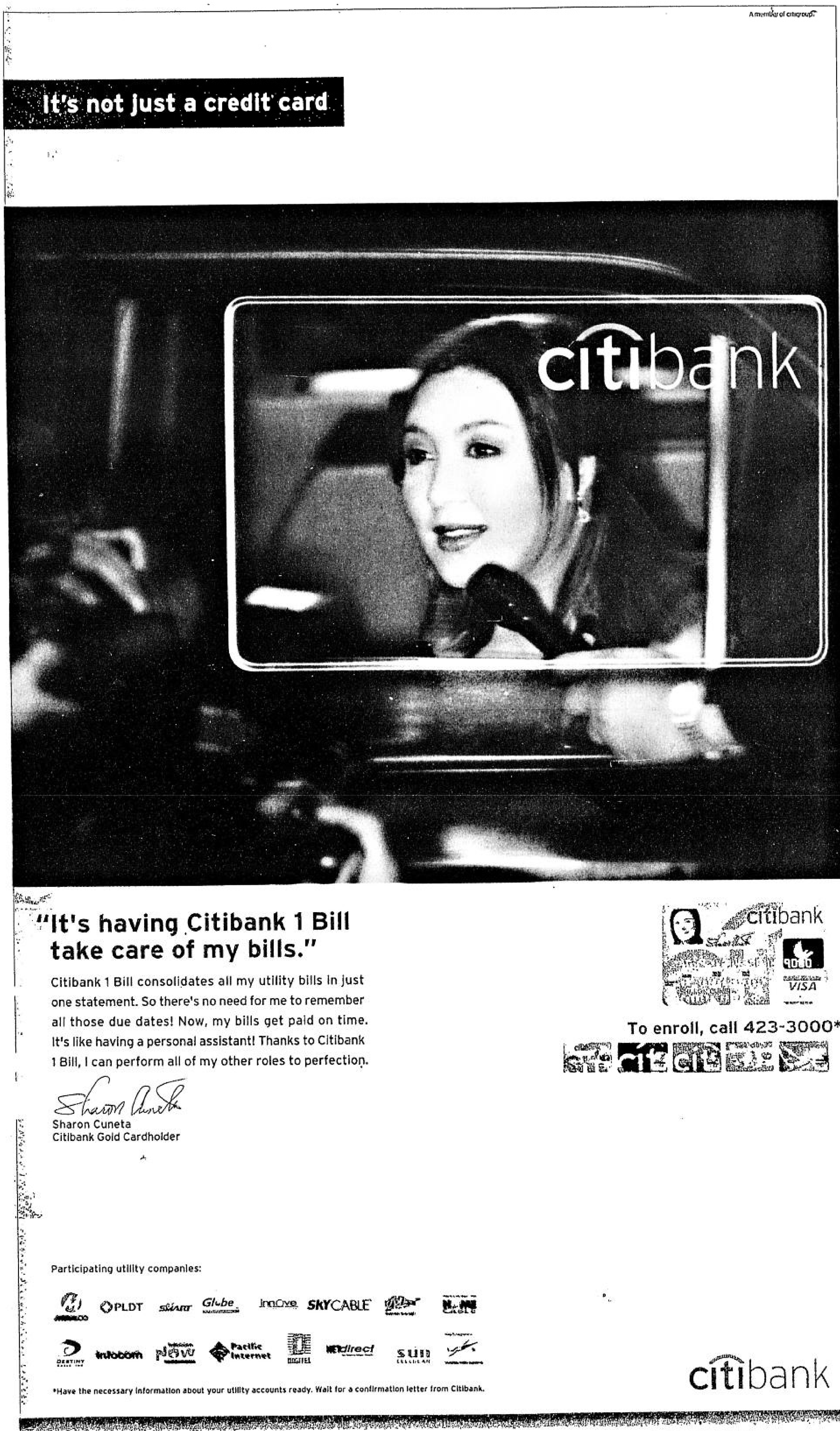
They also said that one of its creditors, Japan-based Tsuneishi Heavy Industries Inc., had already attached a Nenaco vessel, while other creditors "are threatening to sue."

But Nenaco officials "still foresee the prospect of paying its debts, if only (they are) given a breathing spell."

Manila RTC judge Artemio Tipon ruled last April 1 that Nenaco is prohibited from selling or transferring any of its properties and from making any payment of its liabilities outstanding as of the date of the filing of the petition.

In an earlier statement, MPC said that a court-approved rehabilitation program will enable Nenaco to address debts and trade payables amounting to P2.5 billion.

Nenaco owes Tsuneishi about P111 million for dry-docking services and ship repair.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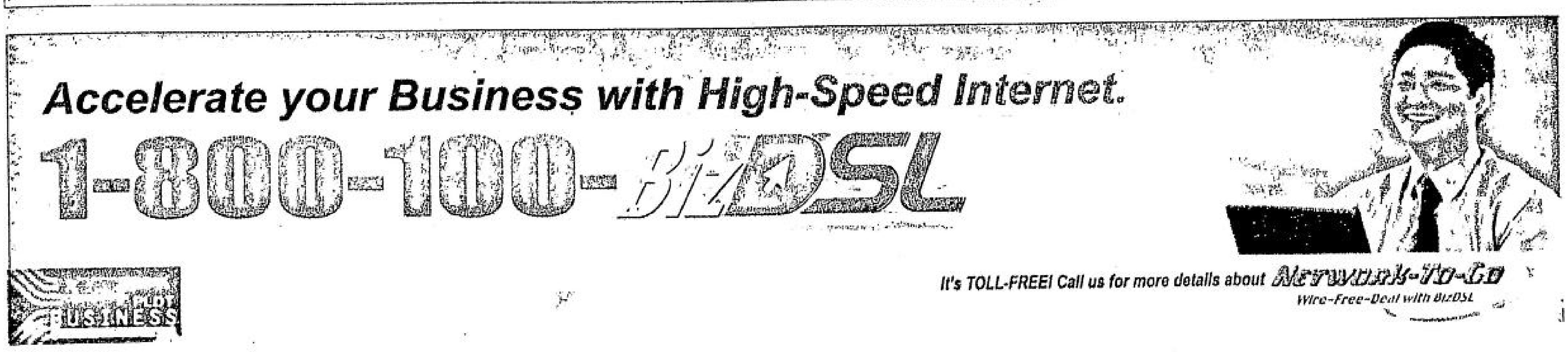
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MOTORING

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Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Fuel economy champ credits footwear for surprise win

THE HEAVYWEIGHTS' baby D-MAX uses up a liter for every 16.5348 km at the 284km run.

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE "HEAVYWEIGHTS" prove that you don't have to be sleek and aerodynamic to save on fuel.

Take the case of the driving tandem of advertising agency executive Badez Timbang, who weighed in at 160 pounds packed into her 5'4" frame, and her 6-foot navigator dzBB broadcaster Joel Zobel who tipped the scale at almost 200 lb. The duo was considered the least likely to save the most fuel in Isuzu Philippines Corp.'s Fuel Economy Run (although they were a shoo-in to "gulp" the most amount of fuel themselves, some joked).

Magic footwear

Simply put, it seemed that they would just put on too much weight on their poor D-Max, which would have to work doubly hard to haul their butts, in a manner of speaking.

Add to that the cumbersome utility box at the back of the pickup. The 3-liter D-Max 4x2 would also have to overcome the potential air drag caused by the box.

Undaunted by this prospect, Badez and Joel pinned their hopes on her "magic footwear" she bought at Bass—sandals with wooden soles that, according to her, made her step on the accelerator pedals in a consistent manner.

The start of the fuel econo-run was at Isuzu dealership in Batangas in the ungodly hour of three o'clock, and would have to end eight hours later in Dagupan, Pangasinan. Badez and Joel checked in for the run two hours before call time, and found themselves assigned at No. 11 (symbolic number).

The two agreed that to obtain maximum fuel efficiency out of their D-Max, they would have to maintain speeds between 50 and 70 kph and not exceed a tachometer (RPM) reading of 1,500.

Combined weight

But that was easier said than done. With a combined occupant and utility box weight of almost 600 pounds (marshal· included), Badez and Joel sometimes found themselves exceeding 80 kph during downhill runs.

As the RPMs increased, so did the tension between driver and navigator. Badez and Joel occasionally argued on the best driving technique for the situation. A run marshal named Dexter, who accompanied the two during the run, also acted as the mediator and prevented the discussions from becoming a sumo "wrestlemania."

> Badez and Joel may have been hearty eaters and passionate drivers on the road to the finish in Pangasinan 248 km away

All differences, however, were soon settled during cigarette and meal breaks. In fact, the team did two more stops than scheduled—either to ease the tensions with another hearty meal or to just plain eat.

Winning figure

Badez and Joel may have been hearty eaters and passionate drivers on the road to the finish in Pangasinan 284 km away. But their D-Max, on the other hand, was truly anorexic. Though the tandem arrived 20 minutes short of being disqualified, it used up a liter for every 16.5348 km. Despite everything, that turned out to be the day's winning figure. Take note: Joel and Badez had their air cons on at full power all the time. Oh, and did we mention about the additional three pounds or so of *tsitsirya* (snacks) the two sneaked in along the way?

Additional notes: Each vehicle was assigned a marshal to ensure the rules of driving were followed. A marshal was loaded extra weight to weigh a uniform 200 lb.

The Badez-Joel team almost beat the Department of Energy fuel economy run D-Max record of 16.647 km/liter set Feb. 28. Nevertheless, they took home P20,000 in prize money and won new friends and admirers along the way.

Adequate preparations

Meanwhile, the husband and wife team of Dave and Zata Aquino—winner for the Trooper category—believed that regular maintenance of 5,000 km of the family's 2-year-old Trooper and adequate preparations won it for them. Regular maintenance checks such as oil change and fuel filter replacements were done three days before the actual event.

Like Badez and Joel, the Aquinos also didn't let their Trooper rev beyond 1,800. Like a freight train, the Trooper slowed down ever so gradually when it approached towns to eliminate abrupt braking. The result for the team was a good 16.9419 km per liter. After winning the P20,000 cash, the Aquinos proceeded to Manaoag (although it could not be verified if they still drove the same way after the event).

The Aguto brothers—Ronald and Roy—of the National Bureau of Investigation won P20,000 in the Crosswind category as they registered 22.4345 km/liter, while Michael and Patrick Gutierrez won in the Fuego category with 23.1245 km/liter.

Early birds Edgar Castro and Jonathan Lim bagged second place in the Trooper category (13.4348 km/liter). They checked in (at 10 p.m.) the night before the event.

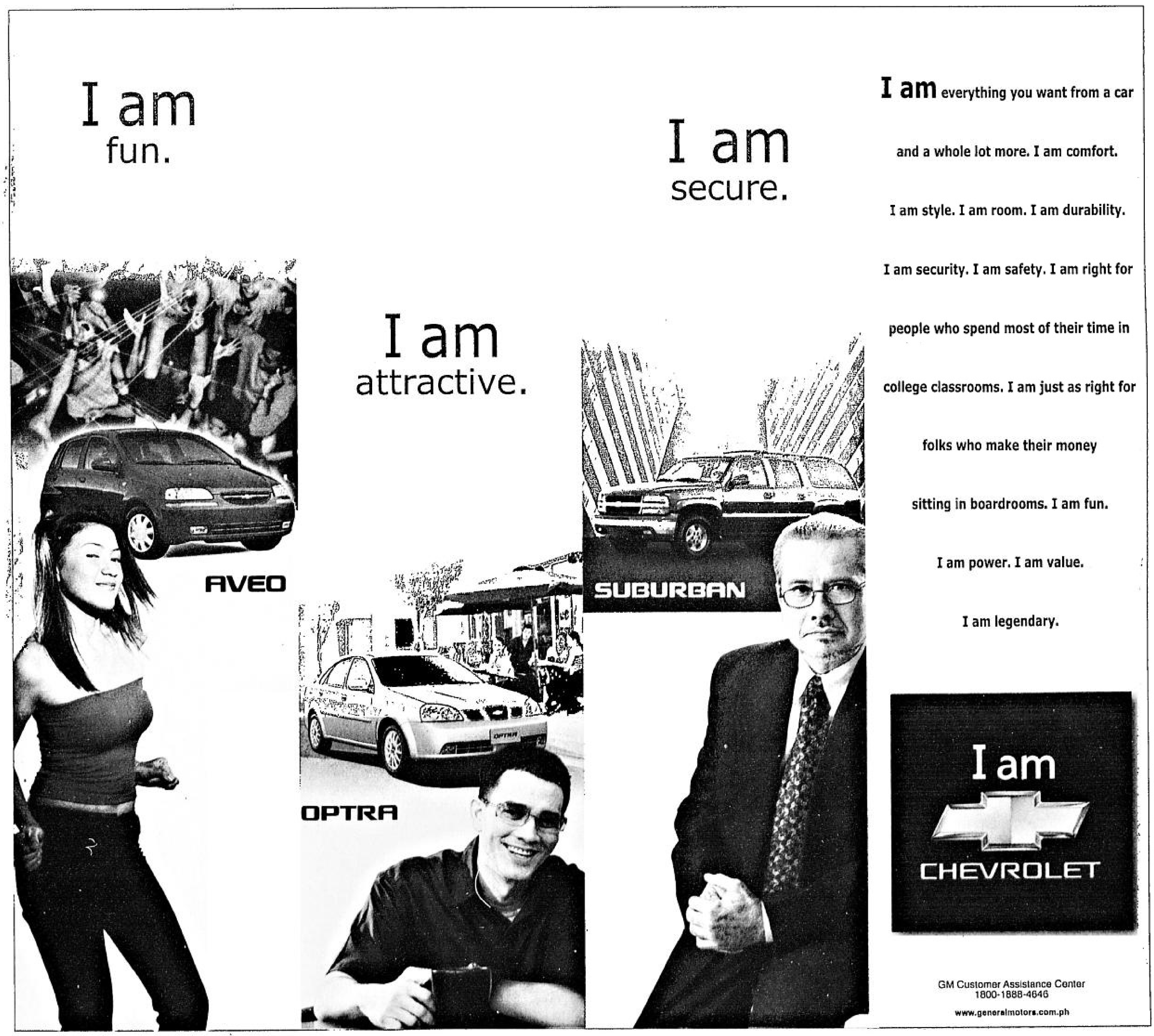
Engines were required to be always turned on during the entire run. Seals were put on their air con and emission controls to prevent tampering.

Competing vehicles must be within "factory stock" specifications when brought to the flag-off venue during the day of the event. Rocking and "shaking" the vehicle while being fueled up was not allowed. In addition, the manufacturer's recommended tire pressure was strictly followed. All vehicles were checked thoroughly by IPC service technicians and examined by verifying officials before flag-off.

Along the route, the teams were allowed to stop anywhere and anytime to switch drivers and/or have a break but were not allowed to turn off their engines except during situations such as flat tire and other mechanical problems that would compromise their safety if the engines were kept on.

Air-conditioning units were set to maximum thermostat levels and switched to fan level 1 during the entire trip and headlights were turned on. Seals were installed to discourage the participants from adjusting the settings.

Each participating vehicle was required to let the rear tires cross the visible finish line before the engine could be switched off. The fuel consumption validation was conducted by Danny Javier of the planning department and Max Marquez of the efficiency department, both from the Department of Energy; Manny Camagay, Transport and Environmental Laboratory of the National Center for Transportation Studies; and independent auditor Jerry Javier.



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Great travel mates this summer

By Charles E. Buban

SUMMER'S under way—it's time to make a great escape, that is, if you haven't gone yet.

The long holiday that came with the Lenten season may signal the start of more out-of-town treks for a lot of heat-weary Pinoys looking for cool temperatures, stunning scenery and clear water.

Faced with a continuously declining peso-dollar exchange, many Filipinos are replacing international vacations this summer with good, old-fashioned trips to closer-to-home destinations.

Road trips to the beach, mountains, or popular tourist spots may present opportunities to see the countryside, or bond with family or friends.

But they can also be especially straining if one is not properly prepared for such trips, like bringing a not so good set of wheels.

THERE is more cargo space if you put the back seats down.

Beach getaway

The coastal areas' mostly level terrain and warm temperatures provide a smooth, low-stress, fuel-efficient cruise to the shoreline.

Any vehicle can make the trip but a spacious and thrifty hauler may be the best option if you are traveling, with your family, friends or office mates.

A great choice would be the likes of Nissan Urban Estate. With seating enough for 12 individuals, this is the best ride if coaster or bus is not among your options.

Also, with a maximum capacity of 65 L of diesel in its tank, the Urban Estate can travel far before needing another fill-up.

Before heading to the beach though, be sure to wash and wax the vehicle with a protective product to guard the finish, which can fade and rust from the sun and salty air.

Similarly after the trip, thoroughly clean the under chassis as added beach salt may damage electrical connections and fuel and brake lines of your vehicle.

Mountain adventure

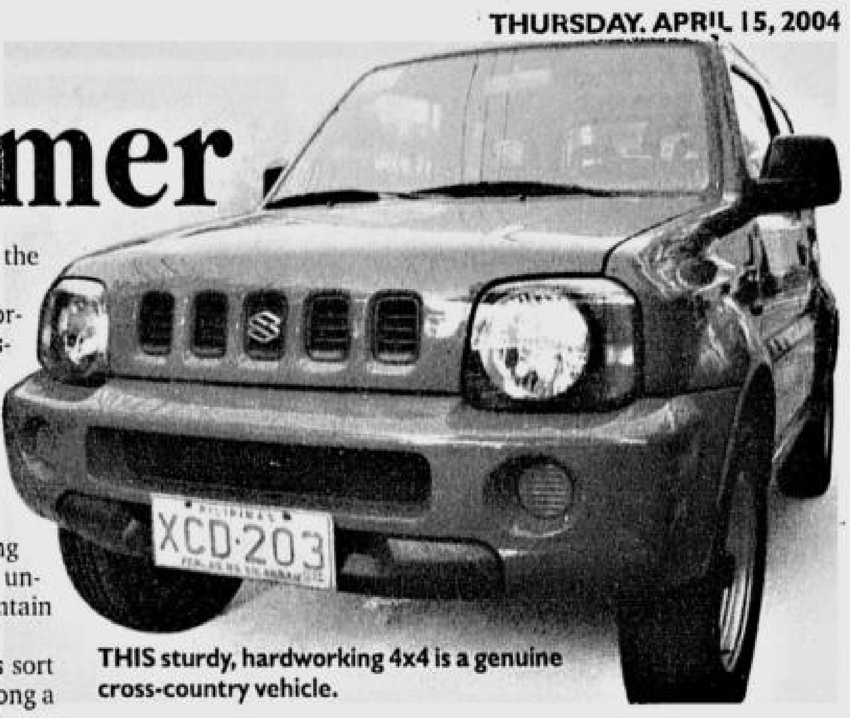
Steep, narrow, winding roads, high altitudes and unpaved surfaces make mountain driving a challenge.

If you're planning for this sort of adventure, better bring along a 4x4 that can best deal with any terrain that comes your way.

If you're the type who wants to travel alone, with your partner, or buddy, the Suzuki Jimny can be a wise choice.

Of course, it's diminutive but you will not be tagging along so much and the Jimny can be just enough for your backpack and other gears.

The Jimny is a genuine cross-country vehicle. Its rigid full-width axles provide a simple yet significant advantage: whenever one of its wheel hits a bump, the wheel on the other end of the axle is forced down, increasing surface contact, resulting in superior grip on any terrain.



THIS sturdy, hardworking 4x4 is a genuine cross-country vehicle.

Desert incursion

If you're thinking of going to Pinatubo in Zambales this summer, then you should be prepared to the area's desert-like terrain.

Pinatubo's hot, dry climate, sandy paths, intense sun, not to mention its distance from the nearest service station means you have to be prepared with your 4x4.

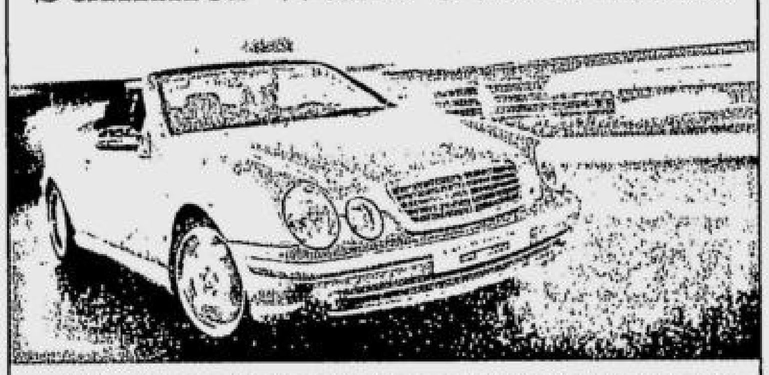
The likes of Dodge Durango 4x4 may provide you worry-free and comfortable driving.

With a 4.7-liter V8 engine that delivers 235 horsepower and 295 lb-ft. of torque plus a 21.6 cm minimum ground clearance, the Durango gives you the capability to handle various terrains that Pinatubo will throw at you.

Comfort is also key. With its leather seats and independent temperature controls for each front passenger, along with a six-way power seats for both, driving can be most comfortable despite the sun scorchingly hot outside.

Now that you have chosen the right vehicle, don't forget to check some of the basic items like tire pressure, fan belts and radiator hoses, batteries, brakes and especially seatbelts.

After all, a better suited and well-prepared vehicle increases only your chances of a happy and safe trip this summer.



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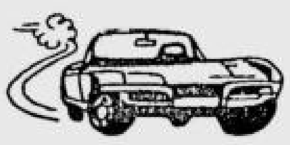
Honda CR-V regains SUV crown



FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

I HAVE always believed that late is never late.

And so, I raise a glass to the Honda CR-V for its enviable record of recently regaining its crown as the best-selling SUV in the country.

Just recently, it posted a 14 percentage-point winning margin over the rest of the SUVs in the market, cornering 28 percent of the total SUV sales.

That was proven once more when the Honda CR-V sold 672 units in the first two months alone of the year.

* * *

The CR-V's versatility is among the factors contributing to its appeal to the public, providing for specific motoring needs. Space, comfort, utility and functionality needs have been all addressed through the years by the CR-V lineup.

The good thing about the CR-V is that all its models are powered by Honda's innovative 2.0-liter "Intelligent" VTEC (i-VTEC) engine technology, which provides ample power and torque, while producing cleaner emissions and high fuel efficiency.

Being the first Honda designed and engineered recreational vehicle, the CR-V broke ground in the market with its extraordinary list of standard features, competitive price, renowned Honda quality and spirited performance as evidenced by sales of the CR-V to over one million units all over the world since it was introduced in Japan in 1995. In the Philippines alone, the CR-V has sold 29,134 units since its introduction.

* * *

PREMIUM PREVIA. At the outset, I must say the Toyota Previa is one hell of a ride when it comes to experiencing a comfortable ride when going out of town. The best part of it is in the long distance aspect of driving. When you get to your destination—in faraway Banawe or leisurely Tagaytay—you feel as if you haven't had a long drive at all. Either of the two would always feel like you just walked one block or something. No sweat. A piece of cake. A walk in the park. That's because the ride is as smooth as silk. Your passengers, especially the kids, can even move about when the van is in motion without the trouble of anyone of them possibly getting off-balanced. The fuel system is satisfaction guaranteed: For the bigness of its engine, your gas budget is a miser's. Previa's power? Awesome. The 2.4-liter A/T is a demon in speed if you want it to. Ask Toyota's Danny Isla. But why go 160 kph when a 120 kph, or even a 140 kph, is like jettisoning the opposition already? SPO2 Ariel de Jesus, who is Japan-bound today, deserves praise—if not a raise—for having allowed Quintin Balajadia to sample the Previa. As Bryan "Epstein" Ocampo described it: Premium *talaga*.

* * *

I bid adieu today to Toru Koyasu, the Isuzu Philippines Corp. (IPC) president, who will say his farewell at the Mandarin Hotel in Makati City. Koyasu-san will go back to Tokyo for a new assignment at one of the Isuzu group of companies in Japan effective April 20.

It will be remembered that since his assignment to IPC in April 1999, Koyasu-san has turned things around for that propelled Isuzu to height of immense success in terms of profits and record sales.

Surely, Koyasu-san's successor, Yoshifumi Komura, will have his hands full trying to fill in the shoes of his predecessor.

The 49-year-old Komura, born on Aug. 7, 1955, joined Isuzu Motors Limited in April 1978 and stayed there up to November 1982. He was transferred to Fuji Isuzu Motor Co. Limited where he worked up to August 1984.

From 1984 to 1996, Komura-san held various managerial positions. From 1997 to 2003, he was general manager in different overseas operation units of Isuzu Motors Limited.

Welcome to the land of smiles, Komura-san. May you have a pleasant stay even as you steer Isuzu out of dangerous waters, especially in these trying times. Before you finally start working here, spend an extra two hours with Koyasu-san. I'm sure Koyasu-san's tips will be as invaluable as the patrimony of a nation when you finally take on the reins of IPC.

* * *

It's hats off to GM Auto World Shaw for winning recently the Gold Mark of Excellence-Dealer of the Year Award from General Motors Automobiles Philippines Inc. The award is doubly significant because GM Auto World Shaw won the prestigious award for the second straight year.

"This only goes to show that hard work and our commitment to customer satisfaction will always put us in good stead," said GM Auto World Shaw general manager Raul Evangelista.

As a show of gratitude, Evangelista said his dealership is giving 10-20 percent discount on labor charges, a 5 percent discount on parts and 30 percent on vehicle washover. The offer at GM Shaw on Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City, is up to May 31.

Said after sales manager Lorenz Aguilar: "We are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Saturday. We encourage our customers to set an appointment by calling 535-4890 and 533-1207."

* * *

QUOTE ME. Shut up. Just step on the brakes.

Mazda dealership gears up for full operations

MAZDA Philippines' managing director Dave Macasadia recently announced the forthcoming inauguration of Mazda's maiden dealership in the Philippines, Mazda Quezon Avenue.

The group is apparently implementing an aggressive plan to build its key dealerships in the country. The new dealership is located within the so-called automotive row of Quezon City.

First dealership

Said Macasadia: "It was of strategic importance that we build our first dealership where we can serve our market immediately. As far as locations are concerned, Quezon Avenue remains to be one of the more important and robust car dealership areas. While it is a bustling commercial area, it is not very far from the residential areas, making it ideal for both sales and service."

The dealership has been on "soft" opening mode since Mazda Philippines launched its models in February. Today, the dealership will officially inaugurate its facilities, and begin to offer after-sales service and spare parts, in addition to selling the latest Mazda models—the Mazda6 and the Mazda Tribute.

Brand identity

Mazda Quezon Avenue boasts of being the first in the region to fully adopt Mazda's new "zoom-zoom" showroom design concept, designed to communicate to every customer what Mazda advocates as its brand identity.

Said Tonette Lee of Mazda Philippines' brand and marketing communications: "When a customer enters the Mazda Quezon Avenue showroom, he or she will immediately have an idea of what zoom-zoom is all about. There is a definite feeling of the exhilaration and joy of motion, from the color scheme to the designs of the models in the showroom. It is definitely a source of pride for Mazda Philippines to be the showcase of the zoom-zoom showroom concept for Asia outside of Japan."

Mazda Quezon City is owned and operated by MT Blanc Motor, headed by Mike Cheng. Upon its inauguration, the dealership will be able to provide service to 10 vehicles per day.

"We are proud to be associated with the Mazda brand, and hope to be not only the pioneer dealership but the best performer among the rest, when the other Mazda dealerships come up," said Cheng. "In the meantime, we invite everyone to come to Mazda Quezon Avenue, and experience the Mazda difference."

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Ford sets Everest public test drive

FORD Group Philippines is offering a repeat of their successful ride and drive activity of the Ford Everest on Saturday, April 17, to be held simultaneously in three venues in Metro Manila: Riverbanks in Marikina, Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang and at the Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

Now made more convenient to the public, registration across all venues in the metro starts at 9 a.m and ends at 5:30 p.m., giving customers a whole day to enjoy the comfort, the ride and the power of this newest family SUV from Ford.

The Ford Everest ride and drive activity is bound to be a family affair that boasts of a picnic atmosphere. Special treats await test drivers plus fun for the entire family.

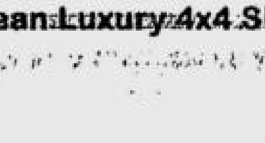
The Everest comes in white, dusk green, twilight blue, silver and champagne colors. The Everest is priced at P995,000 for the 4x2 MT or a choice of a two-tone highlighted silver 4x4 MT at P1.210 million through Ford's 18 dealerships across the Philippines.

Audi owners get free air-con checkup

AUTO Prominence Corp., the authorized exclusive distributor of Audi cars in the country, has lined up a free air-con checkup program until April 30. This is a fitting time for Audi owners to start summer right by having the air-conditioning system of their cars checked before embarking on their planned summer getaways.

Equipped with the latest, state-of-the-art computerized vehicle diagnostic system and special tools from Audi AG, Auto Prominence technicians will conduct a thorough and complete diagnosis of your Audi's air-conditioning system to make sure that it is in tip-top shape and especially ready for out-of-town trips.

Before your next journey, visit the Audi Service Center at 2326 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays; or call 843-3643 or 843-3652 or e-mail Auto Prominence Corp. at aftersales-service@apc.ph for an appointment.



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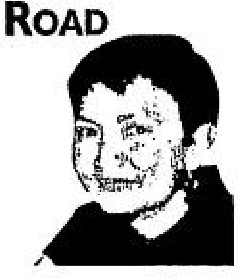
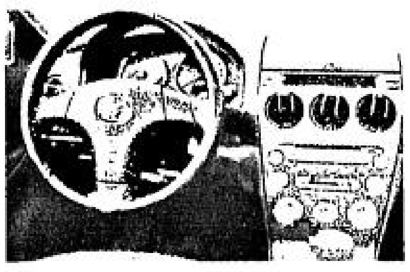


Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

WHEN a car wins 70 awards all over the world in less than two years after its intro on the market, it deserves to be approached with great expectations. Such a car is the Mazda6, an all-new passenger car unveiled in early 2003 to replace the 626 and Millenia. From day one, the 6 was touted as a sport sedan befitting Mazda's zoom-zoom, fun-to-drive image. It is therefore on this score that it should be evaluated.

The Mazda6 launched by Mazda Philippines last February as a CBU (completely built unit) from Japan is equipped with a quiet 2.0-liter, twin cam 16-valve, in-line 4-cylinder all-aluminum engine mated to a 4-speed automatic transmission and producing peak 134 brake horsepower at 6,000 rpm and 133 lb ft/4,500 rpm max torque. (Motorheads hope that the 2.3-liter, 160 bhp Sport version with manual transmission will also show up here soon.)



INSIDE THE MAZDA6: Pewter trim, carbon fiber dash, floating red meter gauges in sync with sporty gearing

Sport-tuned

While the 2.0-liter powerplant supplies adequate punch smoothly throughout the rev range for some lively driving, it is the 6's chassis that justifies its billing as an authentic sport sedan. The 6's responsive steering, cornering grip and body-motion control are awesome, thanks to its sport-tuned double wishbone front and E-type multilink rear suspension supplemented by a Traction Control System, low-profile springs and angled dampers. In fact, the front-wheel-drive Mazda6's handling is nearly as crisp and as precise as that of the rear-wheel BMW 3 series. Built low and compact, the Mazda6 has a lower center of gravity than rivals Honda Accord and Toyota Camry and this translates into greater stability in the serpentines and twisties. Although riding comfort can be taut at lower speeds and the tires get noisy when you accelerate to 180 km/h on the straightaway, the 6 clearly rates a 10 when it comes to handling.

Rally carlike moves require strong brakes and in this aspect, the Mazda6 also delivers. Mazda Philippines claims that the 6 can brake from 100 km/h to zero in only about 37 meters, what with four-wheel disc brakes, ABS and EBD (Electronic Brakeforce Distribution). Aside from Traction Control, ABS and EBD, the Mazda6 has SRS airbags, head impact protection pillar garnish, whiplash injury abatement headrest, high-mount stop lamp, a reinforced cabin and Triple-H body structure as standard safety features.

Athletic

But agility subject to impressive stopping power is by no means the 6's only selling point. The 6 is a good-looking car in a masculine sort of way. Whether you view the 6 from the front, the rear or the side, it looks dynamic and raring to go, inviting you to jump into the driver's seat and zoom off. The projector-type headlights, five-point Mazda grille up front, 16-inch tires and rear spoiler enhance the 6's athletic stance. Build quality is up to the best Euro car standards, ditto the fit and finish.

Inside the Mazda6, the high-quality materials used continue the subtly macho theme: pewter trim, carbon fiber-finished dash, disc-type air-con vents, chrome gauge bezels and a leather-wrapped three-spoke steering wheel and gear shift lever. The driving position is comfortable as the driver's seat can be adjusted several ways, has lumbar support and an active whiplash prevention headrest. All the controls are located logically and within the driver's easy reach. The meter gauges have a floating red background in sync with the sporty gearing. Conveniences and creature comforts include keyless entry, door courtesy lamps, cupholders, an illuminated entry system, a moon roof and an AM/FM radio with cassette and in-dash CD player.

EVEN when viewed from behind, the Mazda6 appears zoom-zoom raring to go.

MAZDA6: Its athletic stance and dynamic looks reflect its sport sedan abilities.

Practical

The rear seat can be split 60/40 to create more cargo space. Even with the rear seat in place, the luggage area is vast, measuring 500 liters. The spaciousness is carried over into the passenger cabin, which is roomy up front and capacious in the rear, the 6 being bigger and wider than its predecessor, the 626. The Mazda6, after all, is as much a practical family car as well as a zoom-zoom sport sedan.

So, does the 6 meet one's great expectations? It rates an almost 10 in the scoring range as far as fun-to-drive excitement goes (I would reserve the 10 for the more powerful Sport model.) Bottom line, the 2.0-liter Mazda6 (price: P1.105 million) has all it takes to make everyday driving an exhilirating experience.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: A horse may be coaxed to drink, but a pencil must be lead.

* * *

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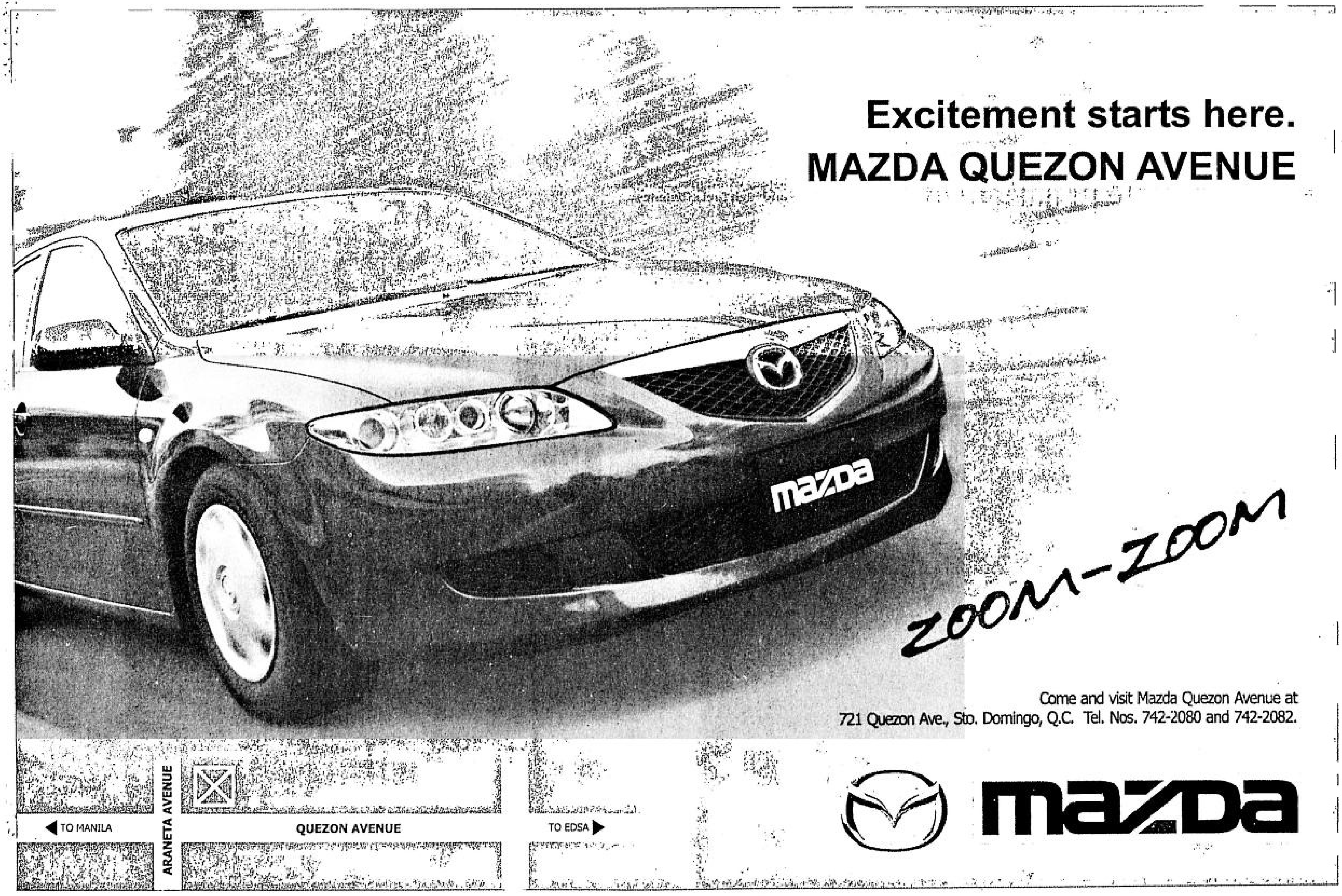

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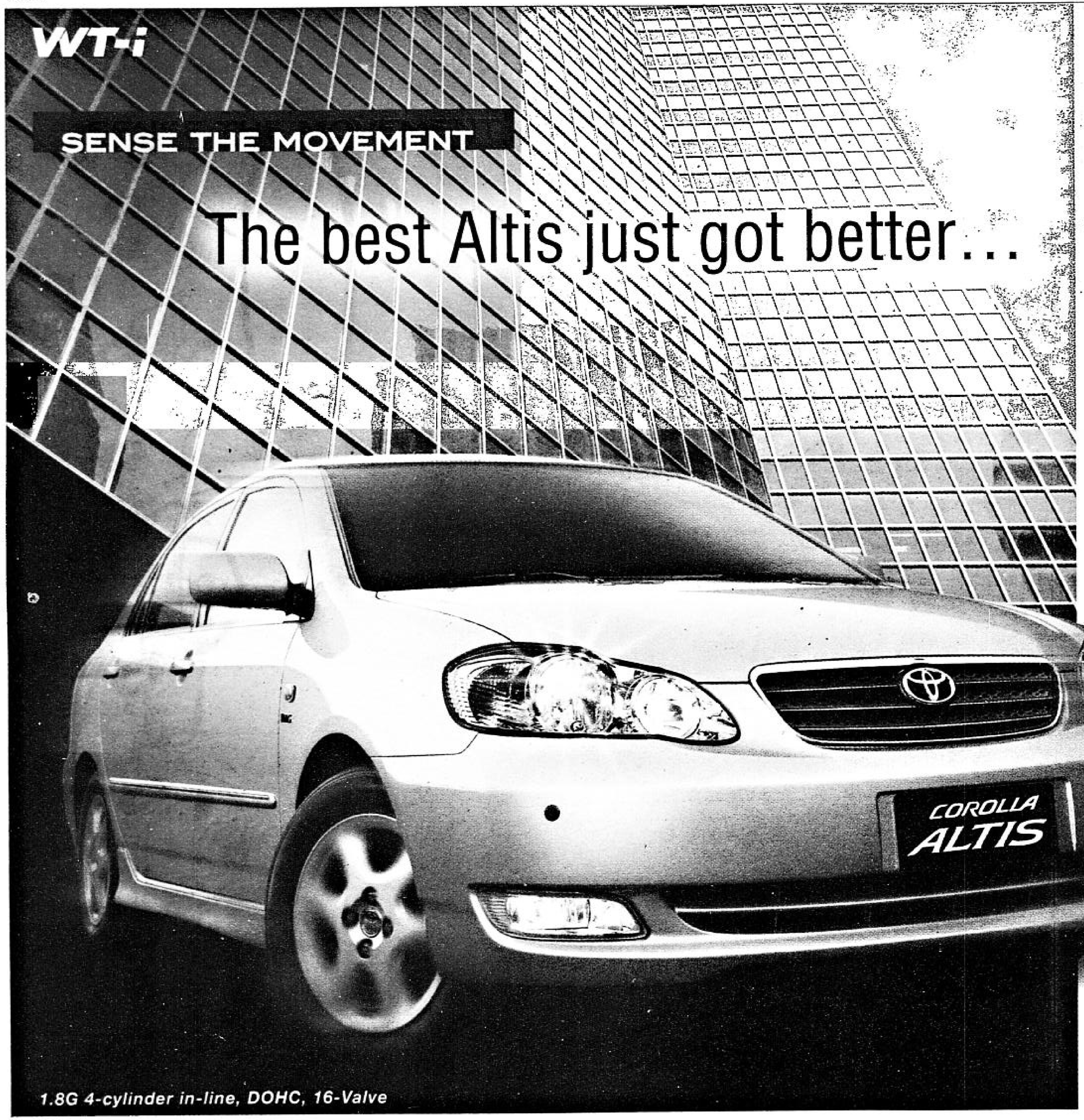

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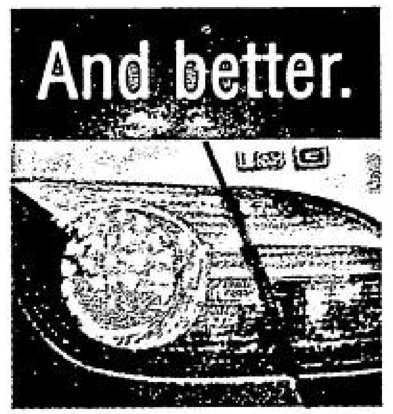

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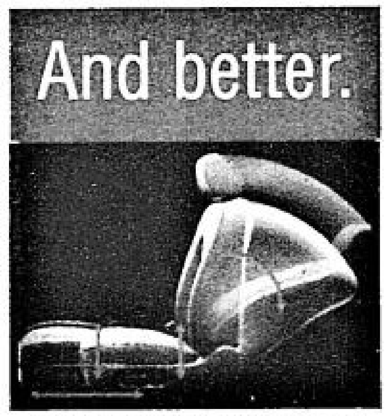

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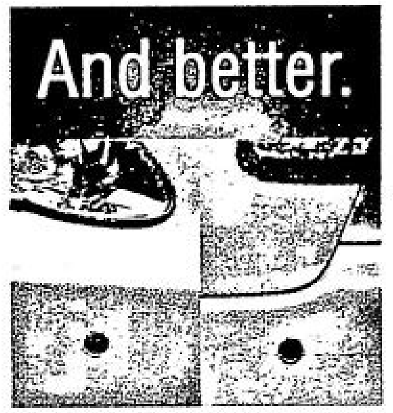

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NEW Wave Classic, sushi and maki combination

Sake son

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

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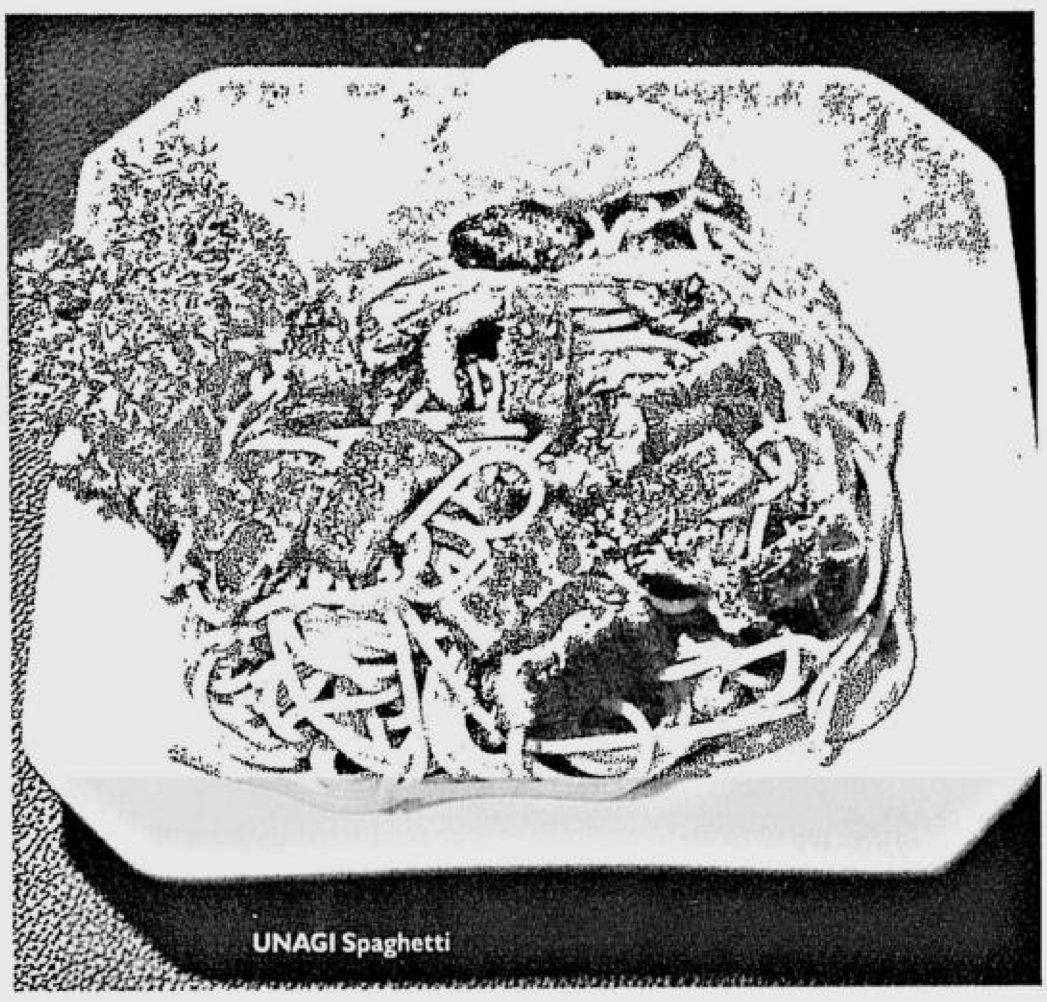

UNAGI Spaghetti

New shrine for god of luck

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Randy Hormillosa

AT 31, entrepreneur Paolo Abaya is feeling not the pinch but the punch of the economic slump. Last year, he had to do something quick and drastic to save his restaurant. He closed down Ebisu Grill and Bar on Jupiter Street in Makati.

Abaya quickly decided to expand his market by relocating Ebisu to Eastwood City in Libis, at the new Citywalk II, reputed to be Megaworld's answer to Greenbelt.

Ebisu Grill and Bar (tels. 6871071, 6877806), in its new home at the second floor of Citywalk II, is starting to taste success once again. Since it opened four months ago, the place is packed till the wee hours most nights and the place is filled with sizzling sounds from the Yakiniku grill.

Many Japanese regularly eat at Ebisu, favoring its elaborate and always fresh sashimi and sushi platters.

Ebisu does not only have an exciting new look with its more festive interiors but is also roomier. There is an interesting interplay of colors—black and yellow—and textures—wood and steel. Hanging lamps help produce the ambience of modern Japanese dining. Japanese characters are arranged elegantly on the wall of the mezzanine floor, making it look inviting from below. With a capacity of 80-100 people, Ebisu, which includes a brightly lit bar, was designed by Chat Fores.

The restaurant, which uses only the freshest ingredients, offers new dishes that combine the very best of traditional Japanese cuisine with contemporary influences. The dishes resulted from Ebisu's own product development initiatives.

Shake No Miso Mayo (P325) is foil-wrapped stuffed salmon fillet baked with miso-mayo and cheese. Unagi Spaghetti (P215) is pasta with bits of eel and sesame oil. Crab Puffs is an appetizing crab with cream cheese in a crispy wrapper.

TERIYAKI Hamburger Steak

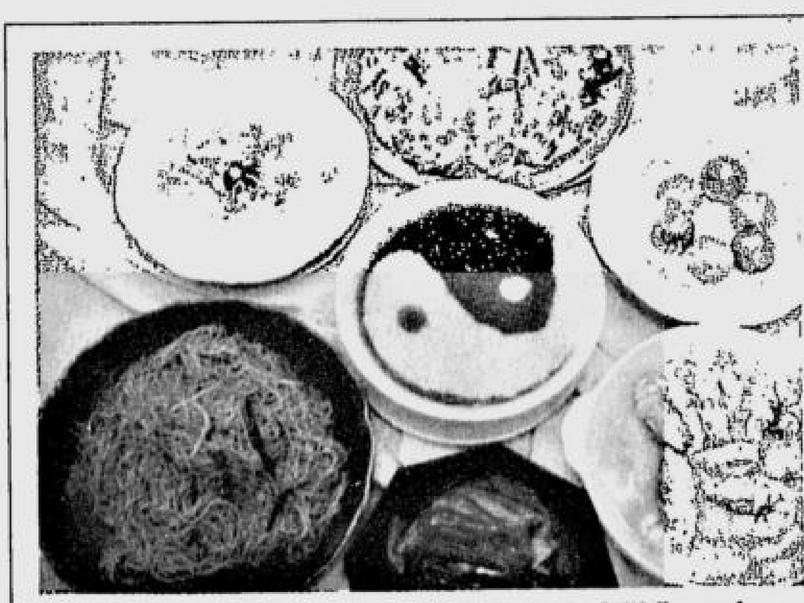
Ebisu, which means "god of luck," has been known for its innovations, such as Ninniku Cheese Steak (seared tenderloin with garlic, topped with cream cheese, P275), Tofu Steak (tofu wrapped in beef and topped with shiitake mushrooms, P230); Ebisu Chicken in a garlic-soy marinade, (P170); and Buta Kimchee (pork mixed with vegetables in a kimchee base, P120).

The Yakiniku grill specials are US Black Angus rib-eye, US short ribs, tenderloin, Australian lamb, chicken, tiger prawns, and *calamari*.

Bento boxes are also selling very well. "We saw the need for a lunch meal costing P160-200," says Abaya. "People don't want to spend too much. We offer them more value for money."

Desserts include light *lacatan* banana fritters with vanilla ice cream, Mango Jubilee, Green Tea ice cream and almond-lychee.

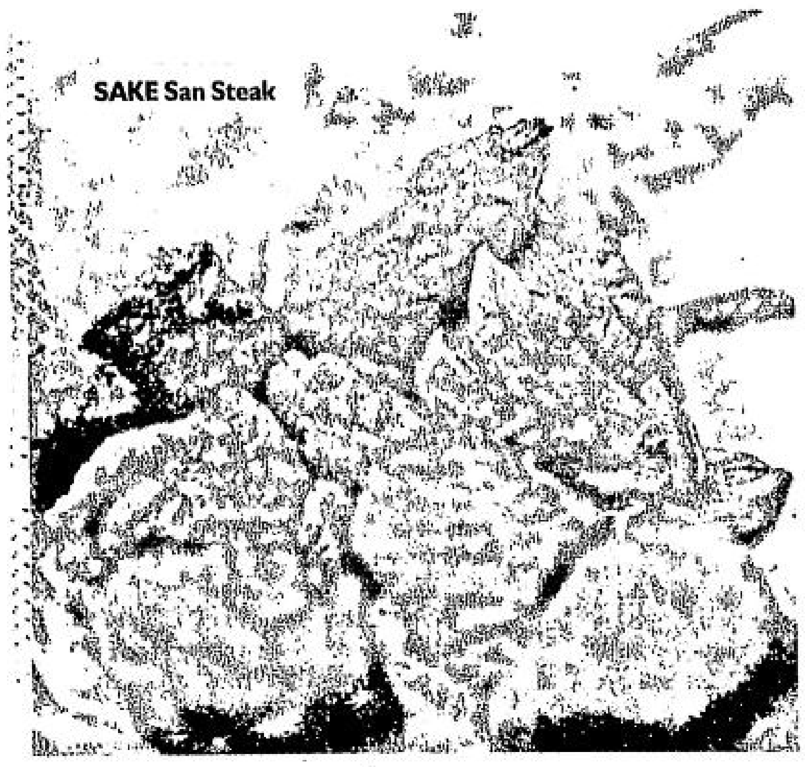
E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph


SAVOR the best Chiu Chow cuisine at Jade Garden's "A Feast of Chaozhou" food fest.

CHAOZHOU cuisine lies
between Cantonese and F
with its own specialties.
many classic dishes are li
with an abundant use of v
cuisine uses the most natu
instead of excess spices.
meal ends with desserts
taro, among others, wh
washed down with cup
"kungfu" tea.

Jade Garden Chinese R
cooperation with the ren
Chow Garden Hong Kong
hold "A Feast of Chaozhou
the famous Chiu Chow c
festival from April 15 to M

Seasoned chefs from Ch



SAKE San Steak

SAKE COCKTAILS. Kamikaze, Shogun, Samurai and Geisha

His father's Saisaki turned the Pinoy on to Japanese buffet dining; the spin-off resto boasts a short-order menu and eye-candy cocktails

Sake son

From page D1

drinks. Geisha, for instance, has the nuances of a margarita, with the salt-lined glass brim, while Kamikaze is akin to Gilbey's gin and lime. There are, of course, the traditional hot and cold sake.

Although it is the Japanese general term for alcohol, sake is actually a rice wine. Sake San's bar list is not yet that long, but Villavicencio hopes Filipinos will one day take to drinking sake with food as they have with wine.

Acquired taste

For the new resto's interiors and ambience, Villavicencio steered clear of the traditional Saisaki colors of green and brown. Sake San has a somewhat industrial Japanese look —white, angular, very Zen and indeed, very Japanese, with traditional Japanese masks adorning its otherwise plain walls.

A treat to its patrons is the kamameshi rice served five minutes tops instead of the usual 30. (Kamameshi is the elaborate version of the humble steamed rice; rice is cooked in a pot of soup stock with seasonings, soy sauce and other flavors. *Kama* means "pot," *meshi* is "rice.") Villavicencio says there is regular market for it. "In normal operations, we have about 10-15 ready to be served."

For appetizers, there are the Sushi and Sashimi Combination and New Wave Classic Combination, both with vegetable sidings and salad. The all-time Filipino favorite Ebi Tempura comes in generous serving and certainly not coated in exaggeratedly thick breading.

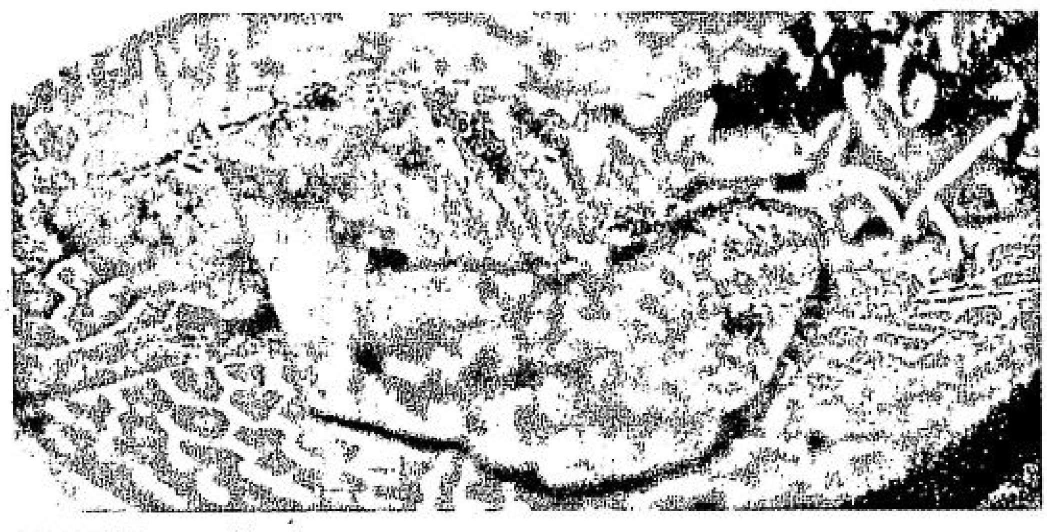
Fish, as always, is the highlight of a Japanese menu, and Sake San has plenty on its list. Kabutoni is a sweet-and-sour simmered *lapu-lapu* on soya sauce, crisp on the outside with soft, juicy flesh. Its Salmon Teppanyaki is cooked in butter with garlic in Kikkoman sauce. There's the Sake San Steak for meat lovers, and the Kani Bacon Maki, bacon-wrapped kani maki grilled in teriyaki sauce.

Sake San is open from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., and 6-10 p.m. Villavicencio says he plans to open four more branches before yearend, with some branches open at longer hours.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

KABUTONI

KANI Bacon Maki



SALMON Teppanyaki

Feast of Chaozhou

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Chaozhou's
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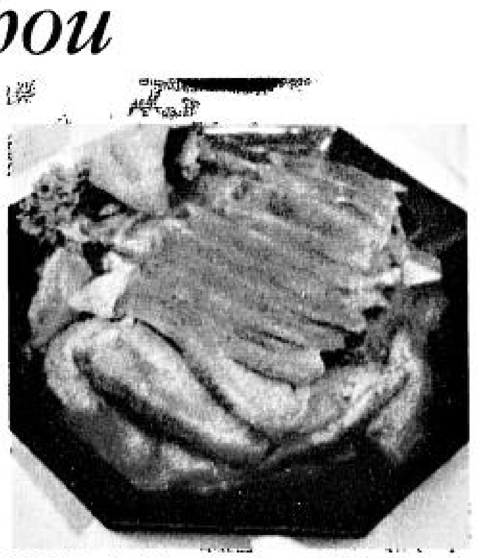
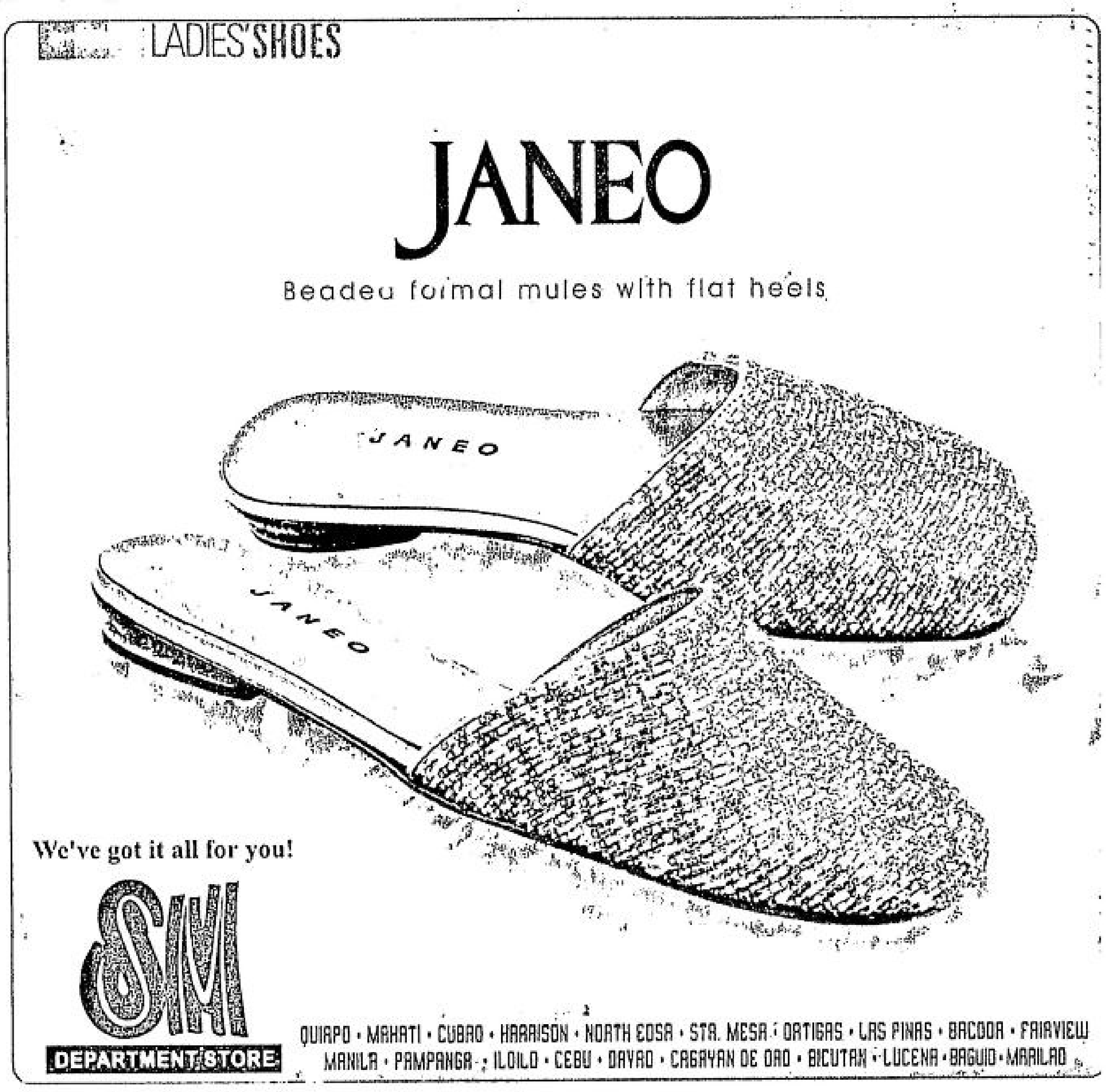
y 2.
u How Garden Hong Kong have been flown in to personally execute and supervise all the preparations from China for a truly authentic Chaozhou flavor.

Entrees in the Chaozhou menu folder include appetizers, soup, main dishes, congee/noodles/rice, and desserts. Two special set menus for 12 persons are also offered featuring the best combination of the cuisine in one lauriat set.

An affiliate of Jade Garden Hong Kong, the restaurant is located at Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati City (with back entrance at the second level of GB1 Carpark). It is open daily for lunch and dinner. Call 8124548 or 8922319.



SOYED duck is truly an appetizing starter with delicious tofu cubes to boot.



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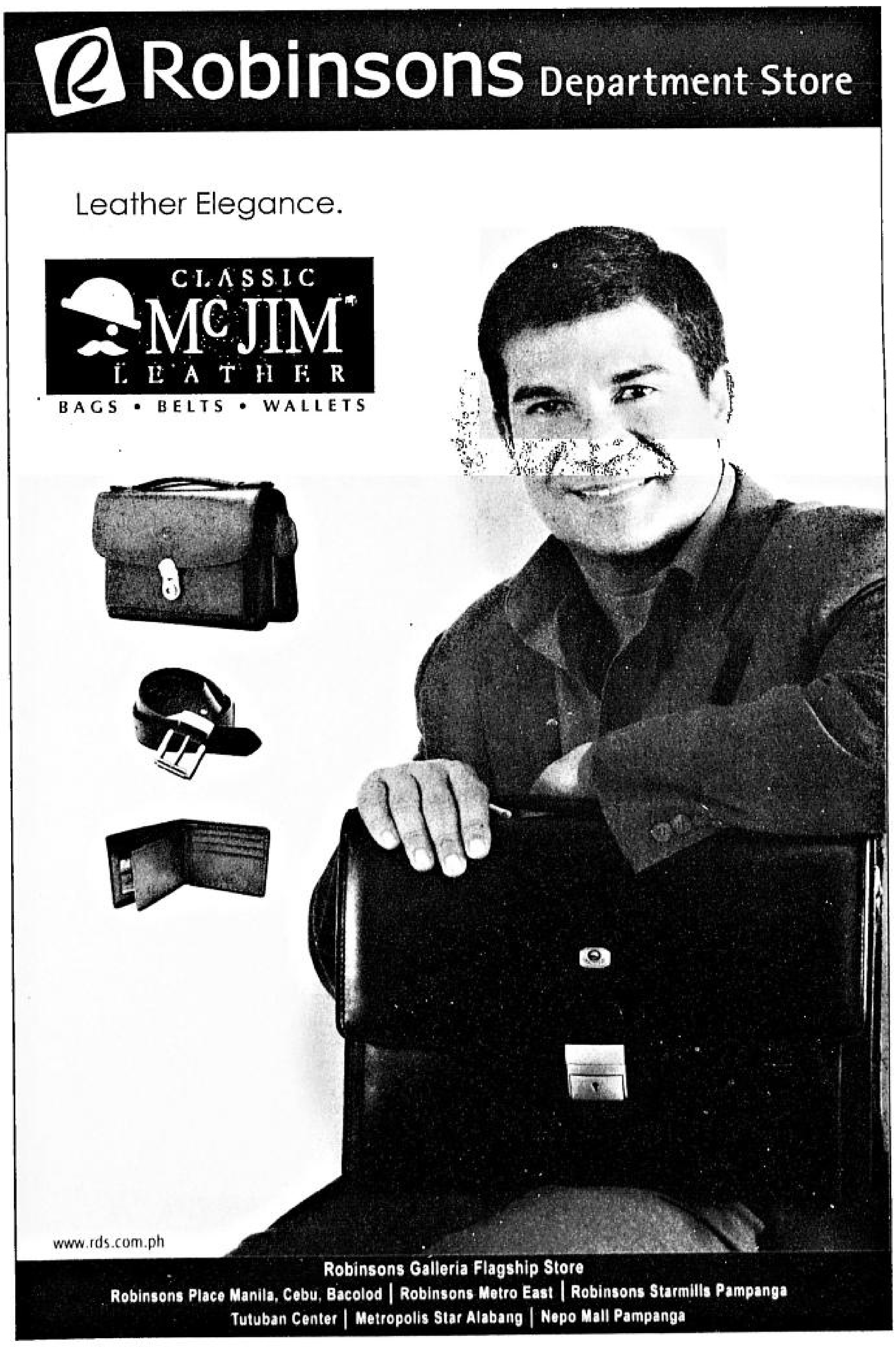

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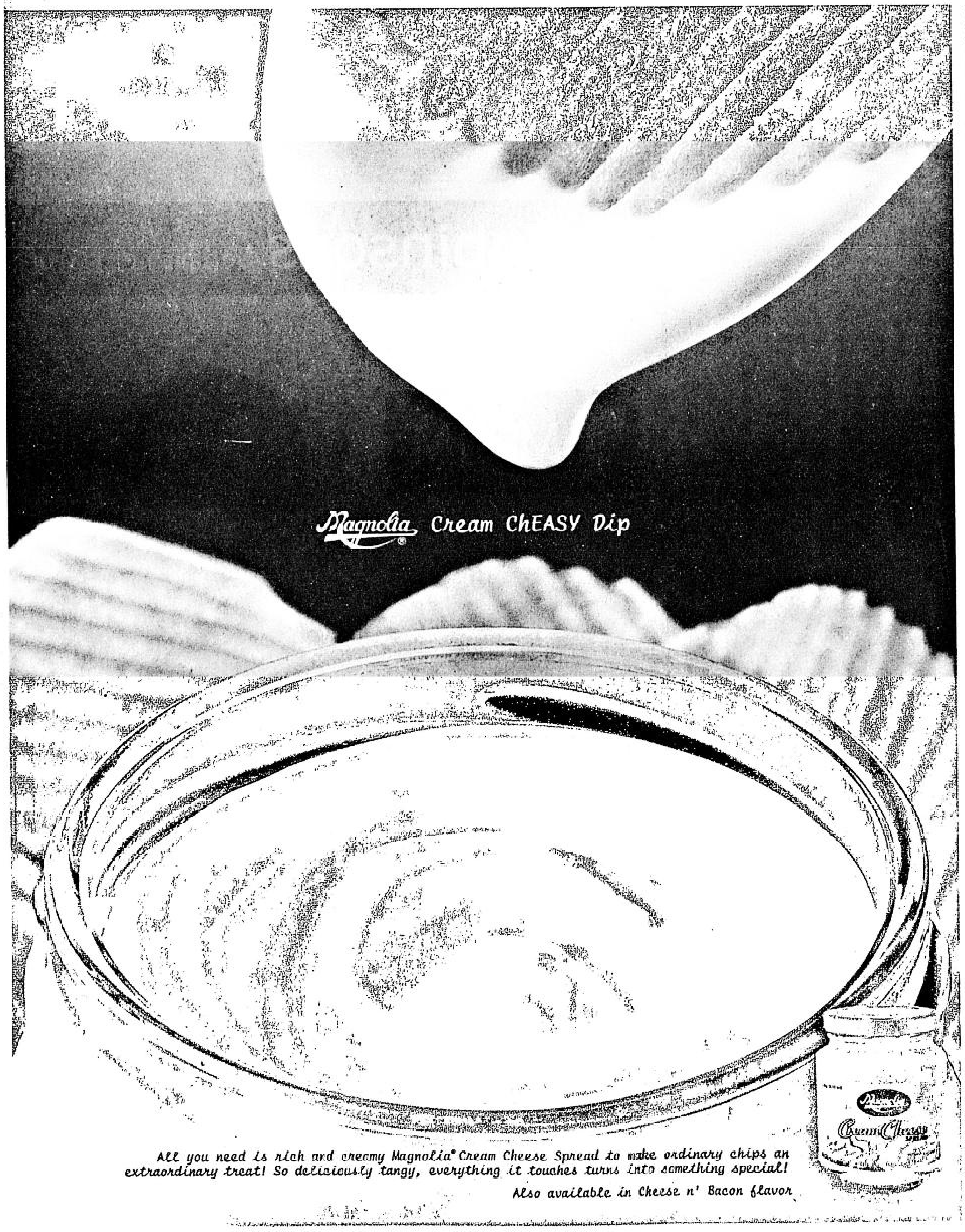

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DENCIO'S continues to cook up a wide array of favorite grilled delights and mouth-watering Filipino dishes. It also continues to grow, with the recent opening of Dencio's in Libis. Libis franchise owner Dr. Perry Yap has added a sushi bar, which serves the freshest tuna from General Santos City and other seafood specialties like oysters, fish roe, *kusog* (tendons) and other shellfish from the Visayas. He has also acquired a Micros-Fidelio point-of-sales system to enhance the resto's service. Call 6830828 or 6830878.

Culinary treasures from China

MANDARIN Oriental's Tin Hau offers Chinese specialties like Roasted Duck, Marinated Ox Tripe with hot chili oil, Deep-fried Minced Pork Ball in brown sauce, Pan-fried Grouper with sweet and sour sauce, Pan-fried Bean Curd with crabmeat sauce and Fookien Miswa. Mandarin Oriental's Paseo Uno delights night owls and late diners with its 20 percent discount in buffet rates from 9:30 to 11 p.m. daily. On Fridays, Seafood Nights is presented. Call 7508888.

DINING OUT

PRAIA de Ipanema Bar and Restaurant offers new dishes such as Pasta ala Picante topped with green bell peppers and shrimps and Pasta Marinara with squid rings and shrimps, herbs and spices. The restaurant is located at level 2, Eastwood City Walk, Eastwood City, Libis, QC. Call 4217764-65.

THE BELLEVUE Hotel features a Weekend Dinner Barbecue, Fridays to Sundays, at the Poolside. The promo is available at 5-10 p.m. Call 7718181.

BACOLOD Chicken Inasal has opened its newest outlet at the third level of Eastwood CyberMall. It offers Bacolod cuisine like Chicken Inasal, La Paz Batchoy, Crispy Crablets, Lumpiang Ubod, Dinuguan, Bangus Lumpia, Tuna Sisig and Bihod Rice.

MAKATI Shangri-La's Shang Palace features the Low Calorie Feast until April 18. The promo serves Vegetarian Chicken with Ginseng Soup, Steamed Winter Melon and Lohon Vegetables wrapped with bean curd skin, Sauteed Misua and Sauteed Gingko Seeds with yellow fungus and vegetables. Call 8400884.

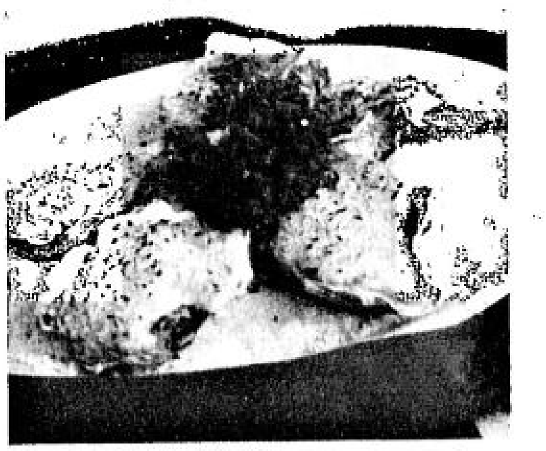
EDSA Shangri-La's Summer Palace will hold the Live Crab Festival on April 19-30. Savor crabs prepared with ginger and spring onion, in soup with vegetables, congee, steamed with glass noodles or glutinous rice, fried with bitter gourd, fried with X.O. sauce, black pepper sauce or Szechuan sauce. Edsa Shangri-La's Paparazzi offers Italian favorites like Fresh Assorted Seafood Salad with prawns, mussels, calamari and octopus in lemon dressing and Braised Milk-fed Veal Shank, porcini mushrooms and polenta.

SEGAFREDO Zanetti Espresso Bar at Liberty Plaza, Valero corner H.V. de la Costa Sts., Salcedo Village offers all-day dining including breakfast and delivery within a limited area. Take-out orders are also accepted. Favorites include Breakfast Rice Meal (a combination of poached egg, beef *tapa*, beef *tapa* flakes and *longganisang* Lukban served with garlic rice) and Classic Waffles. Call 8453610.

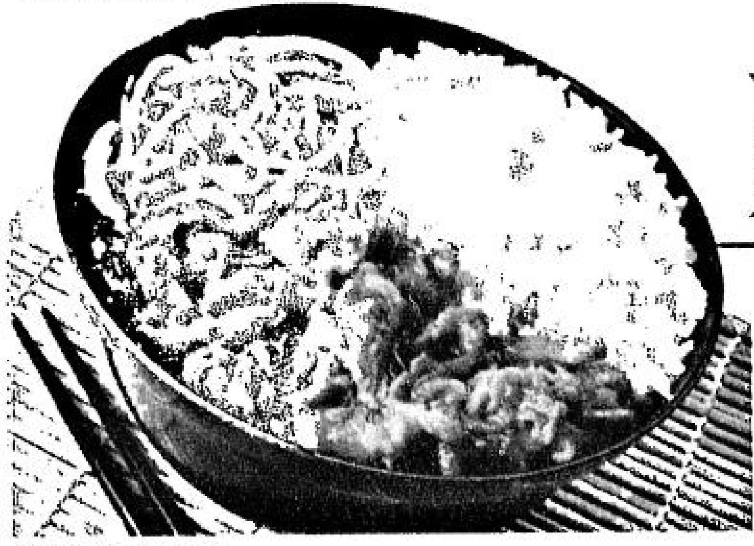
Ñ RESTAURANT features Paella, Roasted Rosemary Chicken, Cochinillo, Salsicha, Albondigas, Boquerons, Adobo Flakes and *empanaditas*. Its ongoing promo is Completos Comidas available Monday to Friday during lunch. These are set meals which include soup or salad, main course, coffee or tea and free iced tea. Ñ is located on Estrella Drive cor. Hidalgo Drive, Rockwell. Call 8982472.

RED DOOR Resto, Grill and Cocktails features Crispy Croquettes, Grilled Pusit, Tuna Belly or Pork Liempo, Dimsum Supreme, Sausage Links and Oyster Oasis. Red Door is located at 173 Pasig Blvd., Pasig. Call 7471191.

JUMBO Japs Express at SM North Edsa features seafood items for Lent. These are Fish and Prawn Tempura Plates, Sizzling Fish Plate, Squid Ring Bowl. All rice bowls, rice plates and sizzling plates at Jumbo Japs Express come with an upgrade option to Japanese Fried Rice or Chicken Kamameshi Rice. Diners can avail of a free religious theme calendar for every purchase of Sizzling Fish Plate, large iced tea and Buko Pandan Jelly.



PANTALAN Maynila Restaurant presents seafood specials this month. These include Relyenong Bangus and Pinaputok na Pla-pla. Pantalan is located at the corner of South Road (T.M. Kalaw Ave.) and Parade St., Rizal Park, Ermita, Manila. Call 5250514 or 4004371.


BEEF Teriyaki Don

PORK Barbecue

CHICKEN Teriyaki

Oh so Japa-nice!

TOKYO TOKYO, the country's largest Japanese fast-food chain, has added new items to its already extensive menu.

With its new Tokyo Tokyo, So Japanice! campaign, the restaurant will offer diners old favorites and tasty new concoctions.

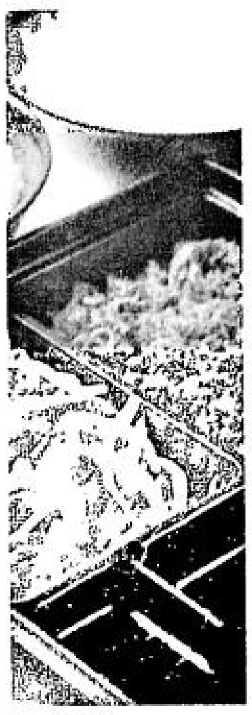
Among the menu items are Red Iced Tea, juicy Pork Tonkatsu, crisp Shrimp Tempura and Beef Misono.

In addition to sushi and sashimi, the restaurant has the Soba line, consisting of Yakisoba and Long Life Noodle Soup. Hearty eaters will have their fill of Sumo Pork Tonkatsu or Sumo Beef Misono Meals which are big enough for two.

The popular Eat-All-You-Kan-In line offers bottomless rice. Recent additions are Best! Chicken Teriyaki, Salmon Teriyaki, Chicken Yakitori and Beef Teriyaki Don.

Reintroduced recently for a limited time is Pork Tonkatsu Curry.

Tokyo Tokyo guarantees that everything it serves is made only from the freshest ingredients. Its open kitchen design lets customers see how food is prepared under the highest standards of cleanliness and freshness.


BEEF Misono

PORK Tonkatsu

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2. Banquet & Party Dishes, *16 recipes* - April 27,28,29,30 (PM)
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24 Sat AM *Special Class: New Dishes:* Preserved Radish Omelet, Fried Big Intestines, King Fish with Ampalaya, Minced Pork Steamed with "Muy Choy".
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April 24 Cookies & Bars 800am-12nn
P1,600.00 Chocolust, Lady Fingers, Carmelita, Walnut Brownie, Macadamia Chocolate Biscotti, Hazelnut Square
May 01 Cakes Galore 800am-12nn
P1,600.00 Choco Caramel Cake, Mango Mambo, Banana Macadamia Cake, Cookies & Cream, Date & Walnut Dacquiose
May 08 Passion for Pastry II 800am-12nn
P1,600.00 *(New Class)* Mango Walnut Bar, Rum Raisin Mousse, Marquise, Vanilla Bean Panna Cotta, Joy's Chocolate Chip Cookie
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2) *May 8, 2004/8:30 AM - 5:30 PM - MUFFINS-MUFFINS - P2,000* Carrot Banana Black & White, Choco chips Mango Onion-Cheese Muffins NEXT SCHED: June 12, 2004
3) *May 10-13, 2004/8:30 AM - 5:30 PM - ADVANCE GUMPASTE & FOREIGN METHOD- P9,500* New Method on gumpaste flowers objects marzipan quilting swags and ribbons, ribbon insertion, finest string works, lace pieces, fondant, chocolate fondant NEXT SCHED: June 14-17, 2004
4) *May 12, 2004/8:30 AM - 5:30 PM - NEW METHOD ON FONDANT USING LACE MATS, NEW ROLLING PIN W/ DESIGNS, SWAGS AND RIBBONS, NON STICK BOARDS W/ FLOWERS & VEINERS & QUILTING - P4,000* NEW SCHED: June 16, 2004
5) *May 15, 2004/ 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM - LEARN SUGAR FREE CAKES AND BREADS - P2,500* Banana Apple Almond Carrot Cakes, Chocolate Walnut Cookie All Wheat and Raisin Breads NEW SCHED: June 19, 2004
6) *May 17-20, 2004/8:30 AM - 5:30 PM - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING - P11,500* (Including ingredients) 30 Recipes of basic cakes, breads, rolls, pies, pastries & cookies NEXT SCHED: June 21-24, 2004
7) *May 17-21, 2004/8:30 AM - 5:30 PM - COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES WITH RECIPE - P4,500* (Each set are lesson covered for one day)
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b) Rose, Callega, Cymbidium, d) Open Rose Hydrangea Grapes
NEW SCHED: June 21-25, 2004
8) *May 12-14, 2004/8:30 AM - 5:30 PM - COLD PORCELAIN DOLL 4 DAY COURSE - P11,500* Make everlasting Dolls using the latest technique in Cold Porcelain NEXT SCHED: June 16-18, 2004
9) *May 22, 2004/8:30 AM - 5:30 PM - FESTIVE COOKIES - P2,000* Choco Rounds spiced Fruits & Nuts, Banana Pecan, Carrot, Choco Apply & Oatmeal Cookies NEXT SCHED: June 26, 2004
10) *May 24-28, 2004/8:30 AM - 5:30 PM - SPECIAL BAKING - P12,500* Learn to make 30 kinds of special cakes from around the world. Each cake has a different icing and decoration NEXT SCHED: June 28 - July 2, 2004
11) *May 29, 2004/8:30 AM - 5:30 PM - SUGAR FREE II - P2,500* Almond Lemon Oatmeal Chocolate Chunk Cookies Chocolate Chiffon Cake w/ light Choco Frosting Chocolate Brownies Supreme, Chocolate Cake w/ Chocolate Frosting NEXT SCHED: July 3, 2004
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SALMON in Nori Wrapper. Rolled salmon fillet in nori served with chahan and wasabe-flavored mayonnaise and fresh fruit slices

SEAFOOD RAMEN. Soup and noodles with assorted fresh seafood

'Ihaw-ihaw' Japanese style

YAKINIKU. Japanese style of barbecue, with choice of meat, seafood or vegetables

CHAR-Q is Rustan's new concept in casual Japanese dining.

Located at the top of Rustan's Supermarket in Magallanes, the restaurant grills chicken, pork, beef, seafood right on the diners' table. At the heart of Char-Q is yakiniku, which simply means grilled meat. The meat is cooked on a griddle, often over charcoal or gas oven, and eaten with vegetables cooked the same way.

Other grilled items are prawns, squid, gindara, US rib-eye, Australian sirloin, chicken fillet and pork tenderloin.

Specially made dipping sauces accompany the grilled items—miso, soy sauce and chili.

Char-Q, which opened in October, uses Japanese charcoal for cooking that has minimum smoke and almost odorless.

Also available at Char-Q are gohan (Japanese steamed rice, chahan style and the Char-Q fried rice with shrimp, ground beef and egg), gyoza (Japanese salads), tofu dishes and tempura, among others. There are eight kinds of ramen dishes and donburi (rice toppings). Other items on the menu are sushis, makis, sashimis and temakis.

Char-Q also introduces Japanese sandwiches, a novel idea created by the restaurant's Filipino chefs, for breakfast. Available are the Tonkatsu sandwich, the California Beef Teriyaki sandwich, the Curry Chicken sandwich, the Ham and Bacon Kimchee sandwich and the Tofu and Tuna sandwich.

Char-Q is at the 2/L Gateway Center, Paseo de Magallanes, Makati City. Call 8534749.

AKIGA'S Bento box selection includes Tempura, Kani Salad (crab stick), California Maki and Gindara Teriyaki

SAKANA Moriawase: Sautéed mixed seafoods cooked right at the teppan counter. Kagiki (Blue Marlin), Nigihata (Lapu-lapu), Kisu (Asojos), Ebi (Shrimp) and Ika (Squid)

New resto upholds tradition

THE NEW Akiga restaurant at the ground floor of The Podium, Ortigas Center, offers traditional Japanese cuisine.

Owned by siblings Bayani and Tommy Tan, Akiga means enlightenment and is also the acronym of the names of the Tans' parents.

Its specialties include Hiyayaiko, chilled tofu with soy sauce; Morokoyu, cucumber with Japanese miso paste; Hourenzo Chitasi, boiled spinach in Japanese sauce; Yamakake, raw tuna with grated yam; and Gyuhire Tataki, sliced medium rare beef.

The restaurant serves fresh and diverse sushi and sashimi selections. It also serves Teppanyaki—meat and seafoods cooked at the teppan counter.

Charbroiled Japanese specialties or yakimoto are also available. These include Grilled Hamachi Head in teriyaki sauce or sprinkled with salt; Grilled Salmon Head in teriyaki sauce or sprinkled with salt; Unagi Kabayaki (freshwater eel); Saba Shioyaki, slightly salted mackerel fillet; or grilled beef.

Agemono, deep fried in cholesterol-free soya oil, includes different selections of tempura and tonkatsu.

Japanese hotpot specialties are lily shabu-shabu, sukiyaki, yose nabe (assorted fresh seafoods and vegetables in clear fish stock), tom shaibu (thinly sliced pork and cabbage in clear soup with akiga sauce), and ishikare nabe (fresh salmon head and fillet with vegetables in soy bean paste stock).

Budget eaters can opt for bento meals, rice toppings and ramen soba and udon specialties.

Akiga's modern Asian interiors complete the authentic Japanese dining experience.

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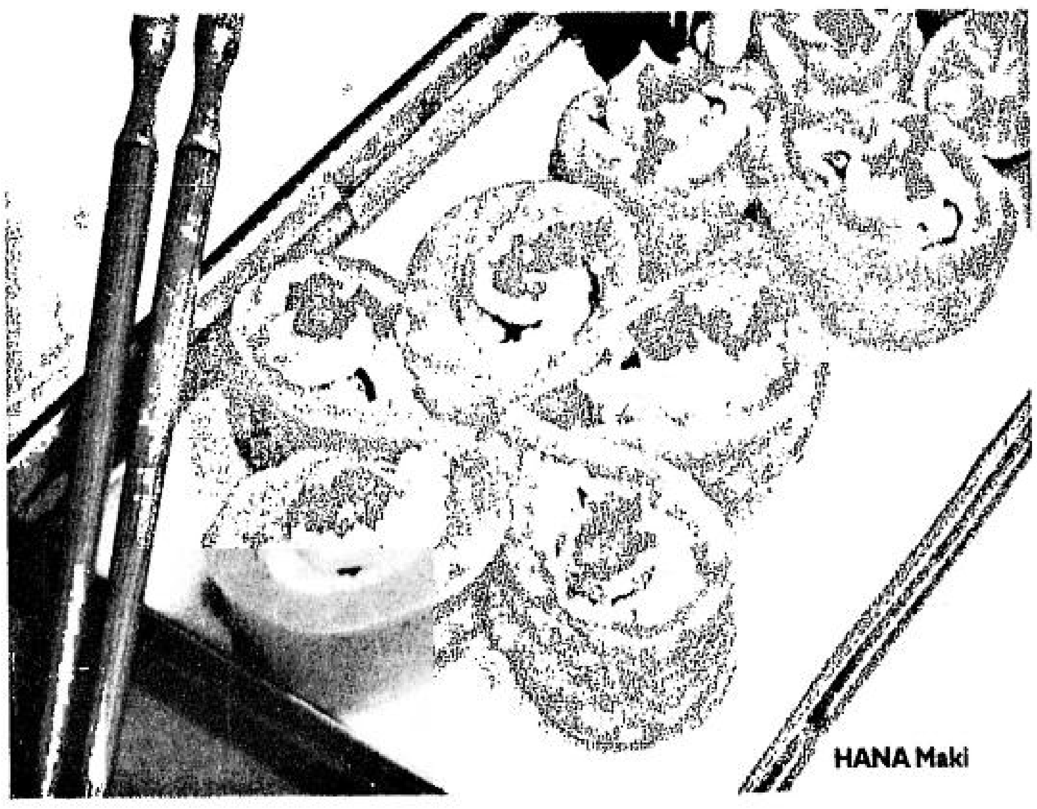
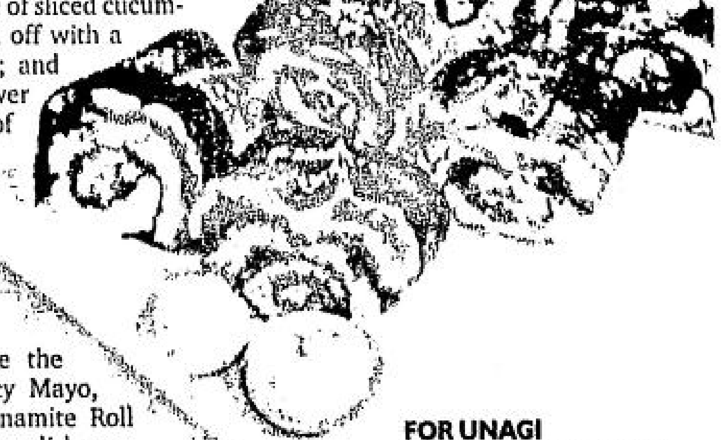


HANA Maki

Authentic in modern setting



FOR UNAGI lovers—Enraku's Double Unagi Roll

ENRAKU, which means "always enjoy," offers a wide selection of dishes cooked and served the authentic Japanese way.

These include the Double Unagi Roll, a whole *unagi* on top of a *maki* of sliced cucumber and *unagi*, and finished off with a sprinkling of sesame seeds; and the Hanamaki (hana is flower in Japanese) consisting of sushi-sliced salmon wrapped over sushi rice, topped with mayonnaise and ebiko, then arranged in half-heart shapes to form an eight-petal orange flower.

Other specialties include the Tofu Special, Maguro Spicy Mayo, Chicken Teriyaki Soba, Dynamite Roll and the Ramen and Makimono dishes.

The *ramen* is made of high-quality homemade noodles and come in several flavors. The *makimono* dishes, include the popular California Maki, Futo Maki and Salmon Cheese Roll.

Enraku has an Eat-All-You-Can promo consisting of ramen and makimono for only P225 per person every Tuesday and Thursday.

The restaurant introduced recently new dishes like Tofu Steak, Niku Jyaga, Ebi Doria, 3 Com Plate and the Four Sushi Moriawase Platters.

Also being served are hotpot dishes like Tempura Soba, Nabeyaki Udon and Sukiyaki. A la carte Japanese items include Gyoza, Yakiniku Beef, Tempura, Furai and Teppanyaki. All-day set meals are ideal for office workers and students.

Japanese set lunches (P230-P250) are suitable for executives and small luncheon meetings.

The restaurant has a daily merienda promo (P40 and up), 2:30-5:30 p.m. and 12-2 a.m.

Enraku is at the ground level of the new City Center mall, Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan. Call 7051510.

Enraku also operates Asian Bites Restaurant inside Robinsons Supermarket at Robinsons Galleria.

Cool delights for little chefs

By Dorothy MJ Ferreria
Contributor

KIDS are looking for things to do this summer. They can be encouraged to help in the kitchen by teaching them easy-to-make desserts.

Here we have Mango Gelatin, Iced Banana and Black and White Gelatin. Once they have mastered these recipes, they can move on to more complicated recipes. They may even turn out to be little chefs in the making.

Mango Gelatin

2 tbsp unflavored gelatin
¼ c white sugar
2¼ c water
¼ c full cream evaporated milk
½ tsp pure almond extract
½ c well-drained *nata de coco*
2 c ripe mango, cubed

In a medium-size saucepan combine the gelatin, sugar, water and evaporated milk. Mix well and let stand for 5 minutes to allow the gelatin granules to swell.

Place the saucepan over the lowest possible heat, stirring continuously only until the mixture begins to boil. Remove from heat. Stir in the almond extract, the *nata* and the mango.

Transfer the mixture to a glass dish. Chill overnight for best results.

Iced Banana (Banana con Hielo)

3 c white sugar
3 c water
2 pcs *pandan* leaves
6 pcs *saba* bananas, peeled and sliced diagonally
½ tsp banana extract
Crushed ice
Bottled *kaong*, well drained
Full cream evaporated milk

In a large saucepan or stockpot, combine the sugar, water and *pandan*. Place over medium-low heat and allow to boil without stirring. As soon as the mixture comes to a rolling boil, reduce the flame and add the sliced bananas. Stir from time to time. Allow to boil again and continue to cook until the bananas are tender and somewhat transparent. Remove from heat and quickly stir in the banana extract. Chill overnight for best results.

Serve in bowls, top with crushed ice and garnish with *kaong*. Serve the evaporated milk on the side.

Black and White Gelatin Dessert

Black Gelatin:
¼ c unflavored gelatin
1¼ c water
1 tsp coffee liqueur or dark rum
1½ tsp instant coffee
¼ c white sugar

White Gelatin:
¼ c unflavored gelatin
¾ c water
½ c full cream evaporated milk
½ tsp pure vanilla extract
¼ c white sugar

Dressing:
1 c canned cream
1/3 c condensed milk

Topping:
Cornflakes

To prepare the black gelatin, disperse the gelatin in water. Allow the gelatin to bloom.

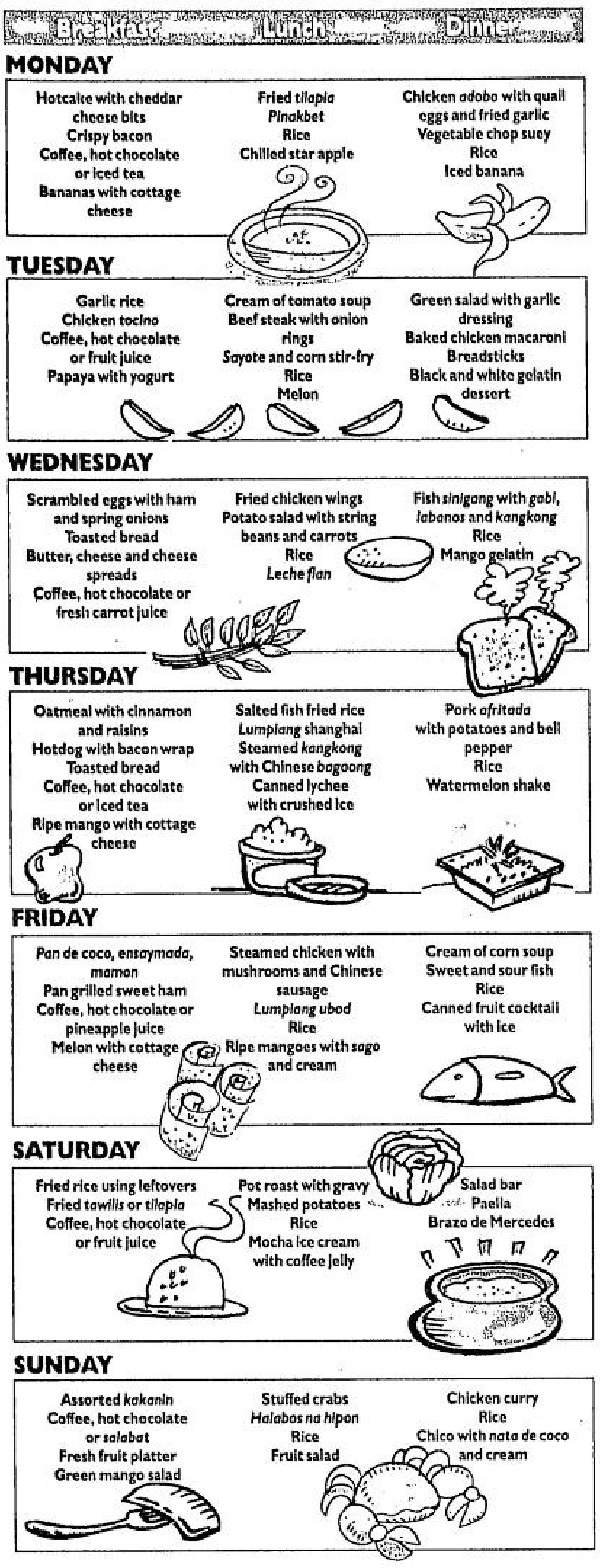
Add the remaining ingredients and mix well. Place over low heat and cook until the gelatin dissolves completely. Do not allow to boil. Transfer to a molder and chill until firm. Cut into ½-inch cubes. Keep chilled.

For the white gelatin, disperse the gelatin in water and allow to bloom. Pour in the remaining ingredients and cook over low heat until the gelatin dissolves completely. Chill until firm and cut into cubes. Keep chilled.

Combine the ingredients for the dressing in a bowl. Keep chilled as well.

To assemble, spoon an adequate amount of both the black and white gelatin in a dessert cup. Top with a spoonful of the dressing. Garnish with corn flakes. Serve immediately.

Dorothy MJ Ferreria offers cooking, baking and cake decorating classes at Dorothy's Cooking School in Quezon City, at the Julius Maggi Kitchen in Makati and in key provincial cities. For classes in Manila call 7217735 or e-mail dorothyferreria@skyinet.net. For classes in Bacolod this month, contact (034) 4340445.



	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
MONDAY	Hotcake with cheddar cheese bits Crispy bacon Coffee, hot chocolate or iced tea Bananas with cottage cheese	Fried *tilapia* *Pinakbet* Rice Chilled star apple	Chicken *adobo* with quail eggs and fried garlic Vegetable chop suey Rice Iced banana
TUESDAY	Garlic rice Chicken tocino Coffee, hot chocolate or fruit juice Papaya with yogurt	Cream of tomato soup Beef steak with onion rings *Sayote* and corn stir-fry Rice Melon	Green salad with garlic dressing Baked chicken macaroni Breadsticks Black and white gelatin dessert
WEDNESDAY	Scrambled eggs with ham and spring onions Toasted bread Butter, cheese and cheese spreads Coffee, hot chocolate or fresh carrot juice	Fried chicken wings Potato salad with string beans and carrots Rice *Leche flan*	Fish *sinigang* with *gabi, labanos* and *kangkong* Rice Mango gelatin
THURSDAY	Oatmeal with cinnamon and raisins Hotdog with bacon wrap Toasted bread Coffee, hot chocolate or iced tea Ripe mango with cottage cheese	Salted fish fried rice *Lumpiang* shanghai Steamed *kangkong* with Chinese *bagoong* Canned lychee with crushed ice	Pork *afritada* with potatoes and bell pepper Rice Watermelon shake
FRIDAY	*Pan de coco, ensaymada, mamon* Pan grilled sweet ham Coffee, hot chocolate or pineapple juice Melon with cottage cheese	Steamed chicken with mushrooms and Chinese sausage *Lumpiang ubod* Rice Ripe mangoes with *sago* and cream	Cream of corn soup Sweet and sour fish Rice Canned fruit cocktail with ice
SATURDAY	Fried rice using leftovers Fried *tawilis* or *tilapia* Coffee, hot chocolate or fruit juice	Pot roast with gravy Mashed potatoes Rice Mocha ice cream with coffee jelly	Salad bar Paella Brazo de Mercedes
SUNDAY	Assorted *kakanin* Coffee, hot chocolate or *salabat* Fresh fruit platter Green mango salad	Stuffed crabs *Halabos na hipon* Rice Fruit salad	Chicken curry Rice Chico with *nata de coco* and cream

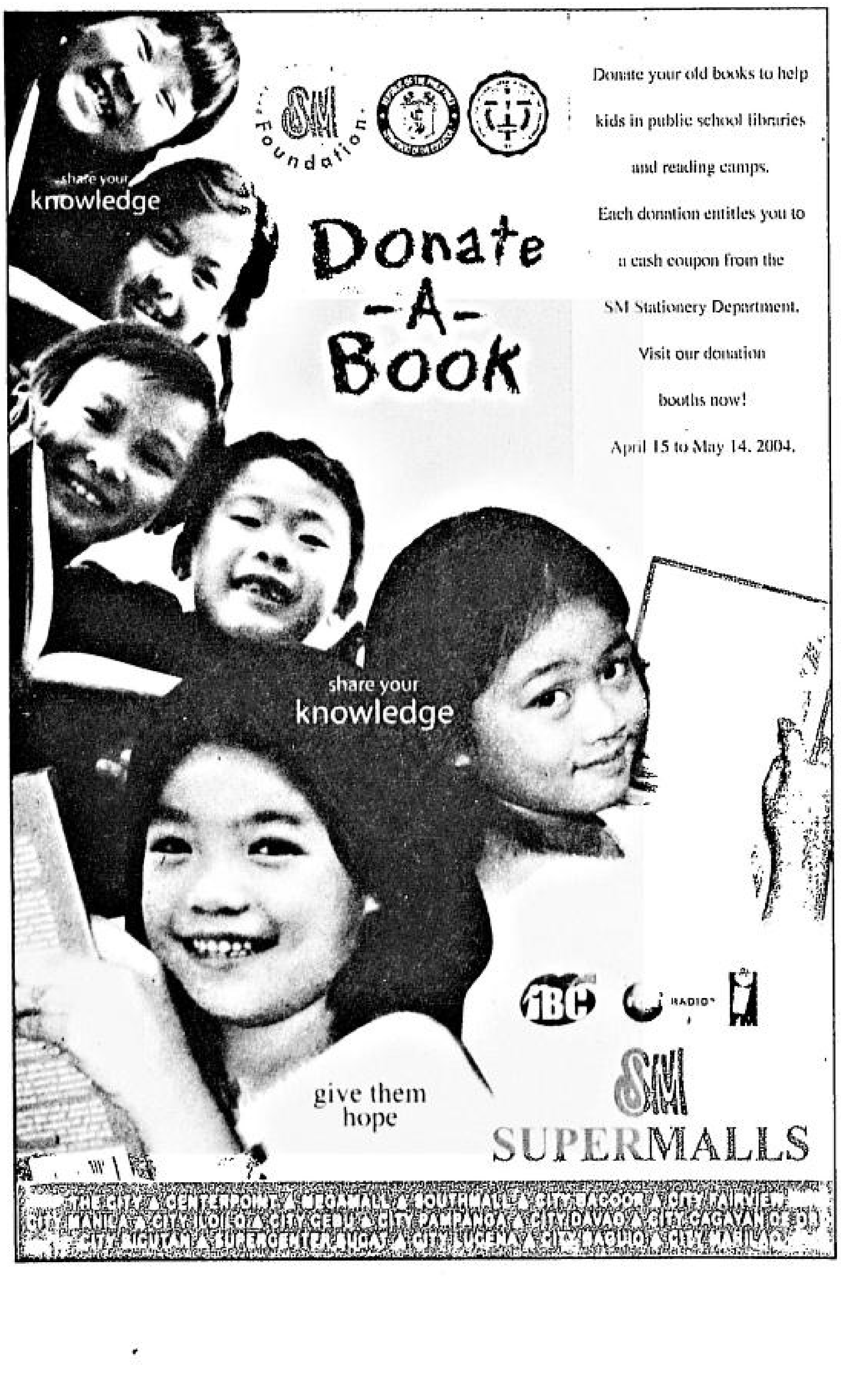
Catering seminar

CATERERS, restaurateurs and others planning to start or manage a catering business are invited by ProActive Center for Training to its Managing a Catering Business seminar-workshop on April 12-21, 12 nn-5 p.m., at Ipanema Bar & Restaurant, Level 2, Eastwood City Walk, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City.

Reservations are currently being accepted on a first-come-first-served basis at tel. 7876370 or mobile no. 0916-8226053.

Only 20 participants will be accepted.

The eight-day training will feature lectures and hands-on workshops on legal requirements; planning the menu, equipment and staffing; cost control; room arrangements; napkin folding and table skirting, among others.



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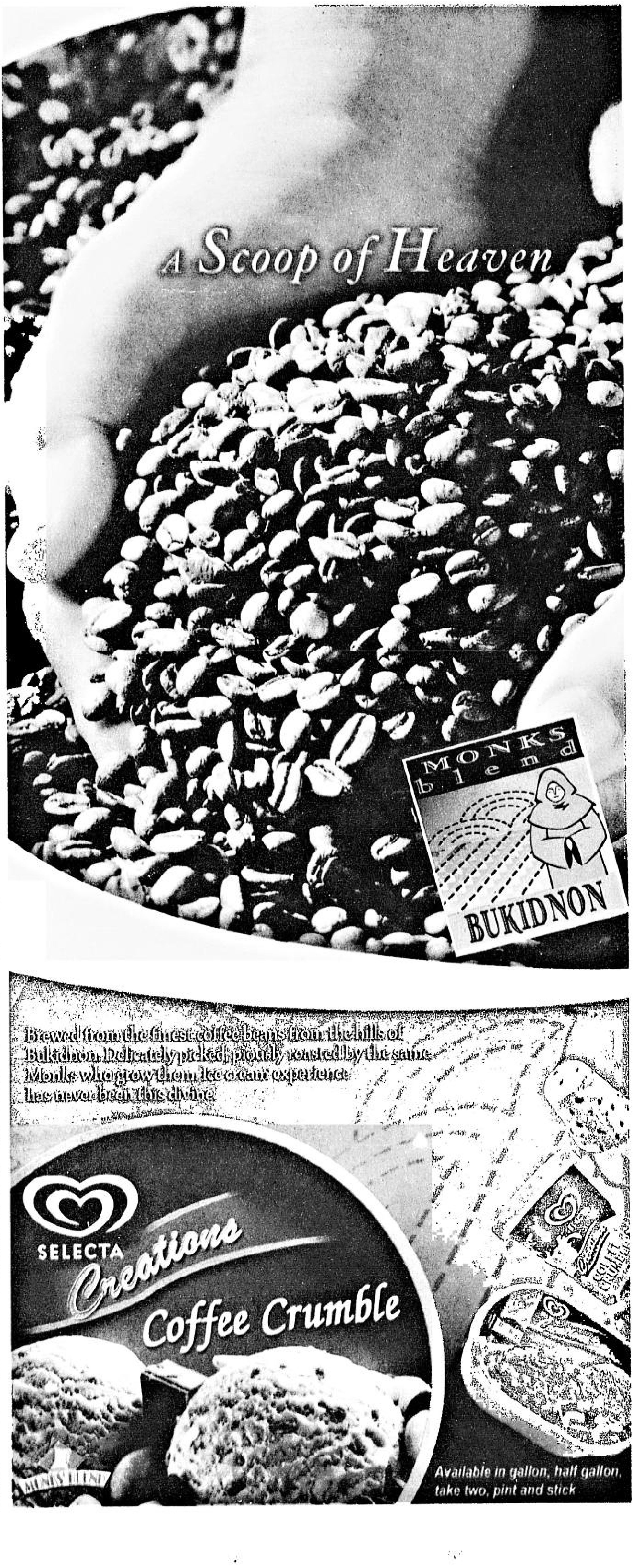

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Road accidents are not uncontrollable events

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THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

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He suggested key preventive measures: use of seat belts, restrictions on speed and alcohol intake, and enhanced vehicle standards and road design and conditions.

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"Those of us who spent time and effort to go back to La Trinidad had no choice but to buy the overpriced strawberries. I wonder where DTI's 'Bantay Bilihin' monitoring team in Baguio City was during the Holy Week?"

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The ladies behind Cooking Basics are Ana Park, Melanie Cruz and Pria Solon. After graduating from the Ecole des Roches in Switzerland, classmates Ana and Mel decided to venture into culinary teaching and Ana's Alabang home became the venue for cooking classes.

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Now 1399.75
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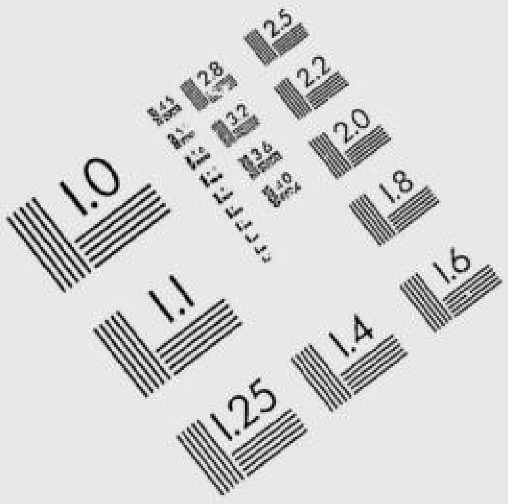
IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)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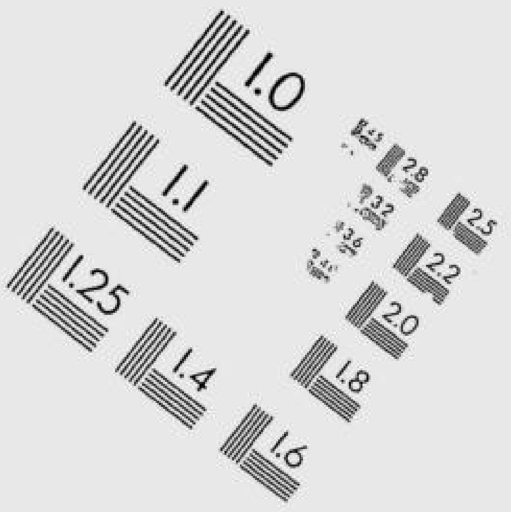
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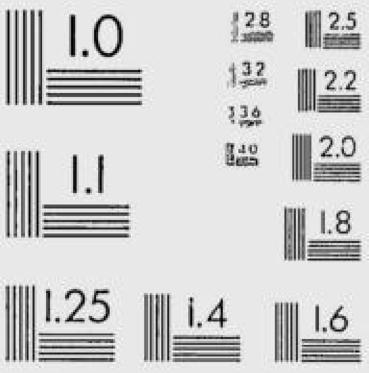
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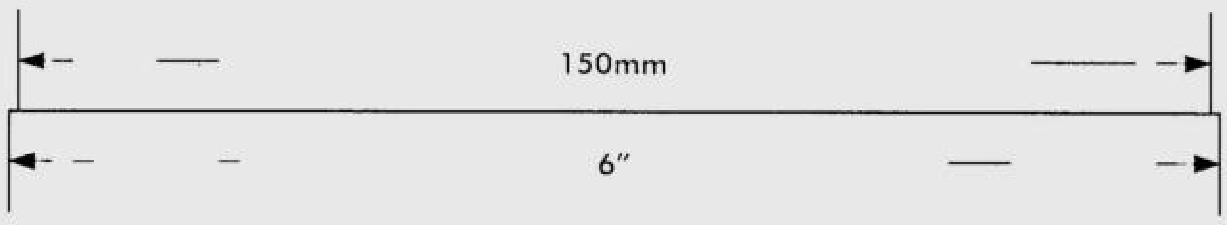

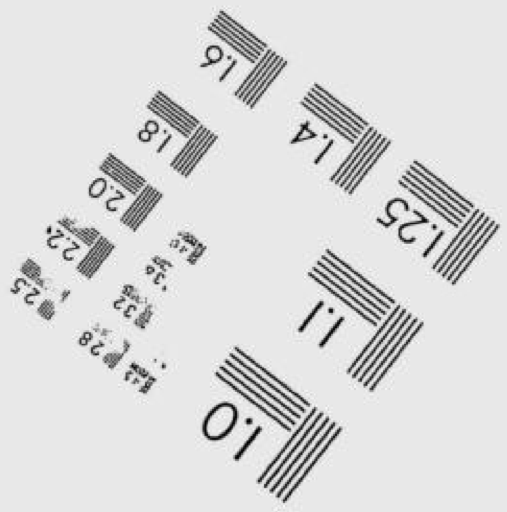
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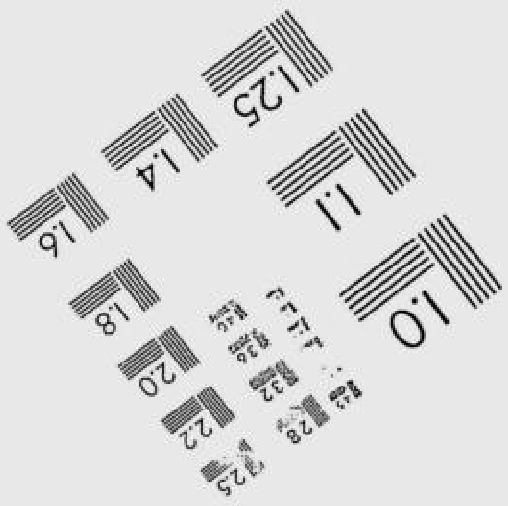
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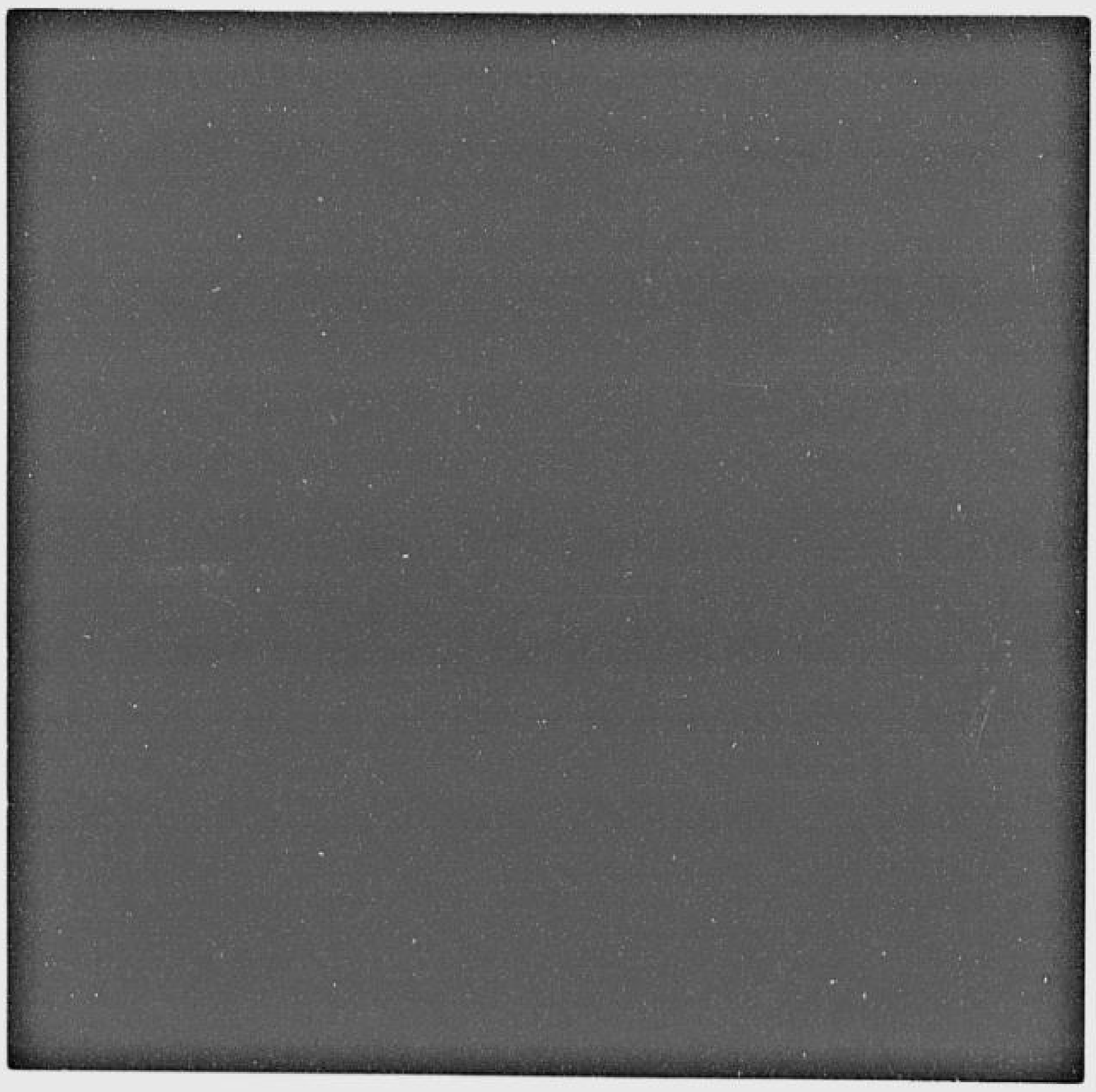

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APRIL
16 THRU 30
2004

REEL 331

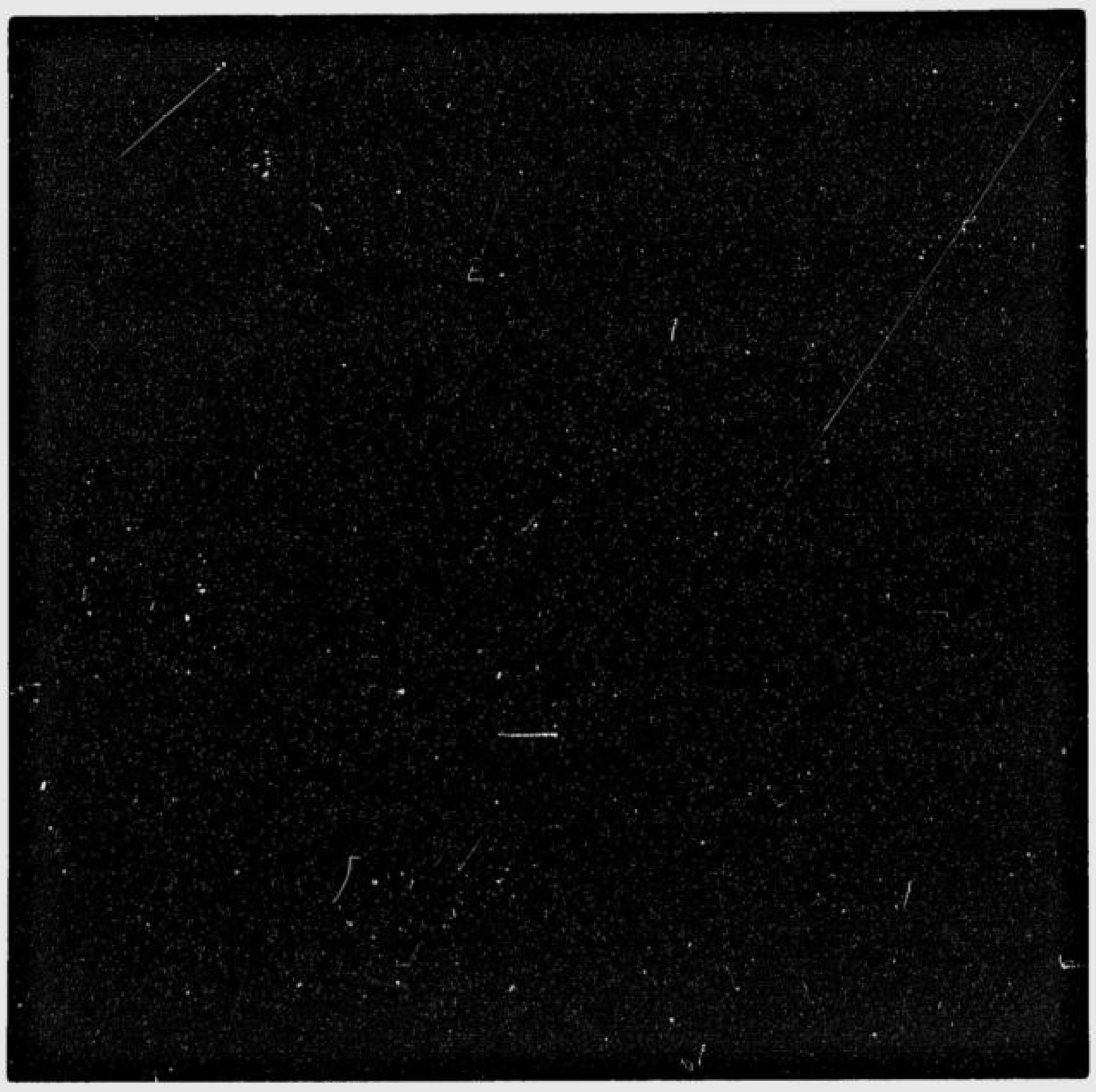
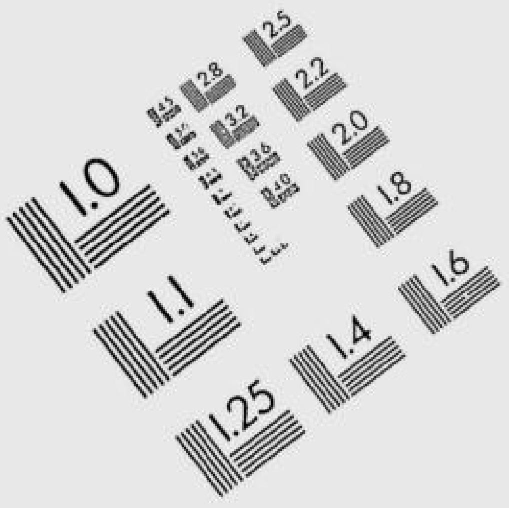


IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)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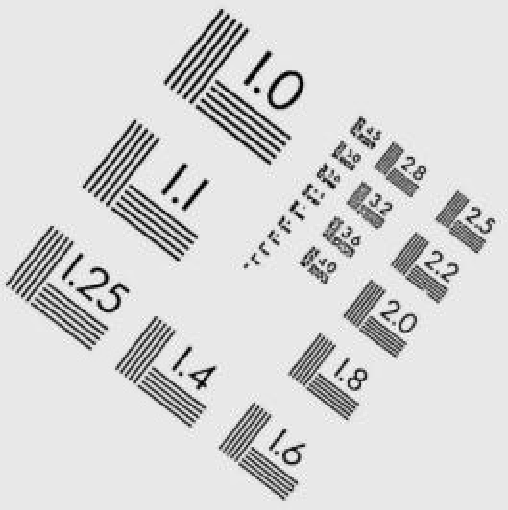
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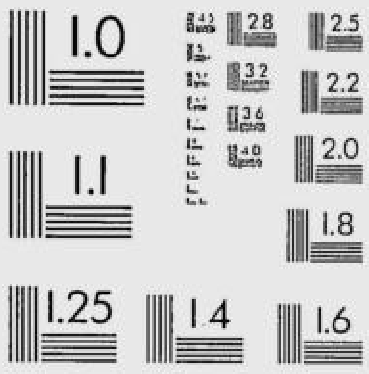
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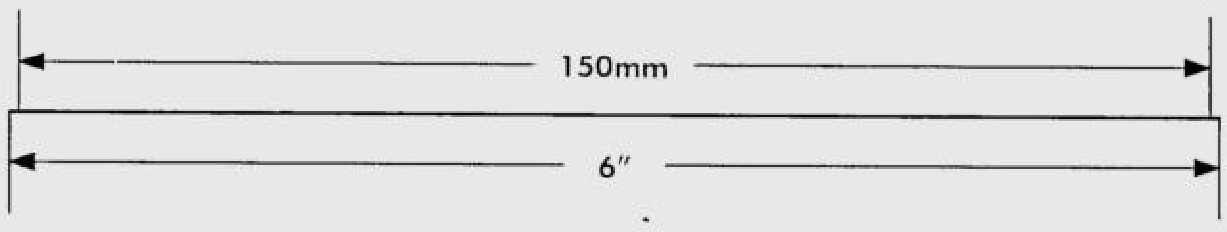

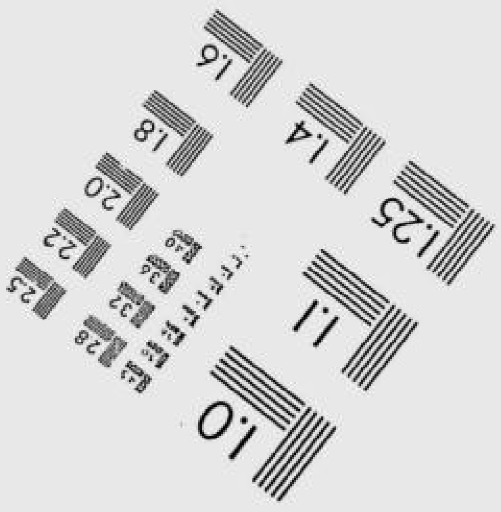
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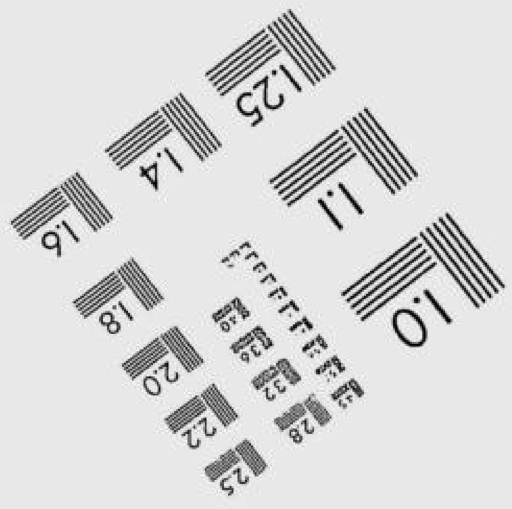
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